

E. Allen, M. Cho, D. Czapinski, L. Fu, J. Garrison, R. Hernandez, T. Jackson, C. Restrepo, E. Velazquez, Z. Ye

ABSENT

J. Dennis, J. Malveaux

EXCUSED ABSENCE

Chair Bettcher convened the (Zoom) meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Senator Ramos read the Tongva land acknowledgement.

1. 1.1 Chair's announcements:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1.1.1 Here are the nominees for the Ad Hoc Search Committee for the Provost/VPAA:  
Peter Ivory (HHS)  
David Blekhman (ECST)  
Andre Avramchuk (B&E)  
Choi Chatterjee (NSS)  
Ericka Verba (NSS)  
Gabriela Simon-Cerejido (HHS)  
Beth Hoffman (HHS)  
Anthony Hernandez (CCOE)

The Senate election will commence May 11-17, 2022.

- 1.1.2 There is a call for CSU faculty tenure and tenure-track faculty discipline experts to participate in the roles of Course Outline of Record Evaluator (CORE) or Faculty Discipline Review Group (FDRG) in CCC/CSU Intersegmental Associate Degree for Transfer C-ID Process. For more information, please reach out to Karen Simpson-Alisca at [transfcurric@calstatela.edu](mailto:transfcurric@calstatela.edu).

2. 2.1 Senators and visitors raised concerns including, but not limited to, the following:

CONCERNS FROM THE FLOOR

- Create a campus free from racial injustice
- Brutal treatment and removal of Dr. Melina Abdullah from mayoral debate hosted by the Pat Brown Institute.
- Vote of no confidence for President Covino
- Graduate students are not receiving information and there is a huge lack of resources and services

2.2 Senator Ramos read an open letter from Dolores Huerta, Civil Rights Leader (attached)

3. 3.1 Chair Bettcher shared the following response from President Covino to Senator Schaff's intent to raise questions from the meeting of May 3, 2022 (ASM 21-16):  
I apologize for forgetting to pursue a campus recognition of the Armenian genocide. Vice President Villalpando and I are committed to addressing this matter at the beginning of the Fall semester, and putting programming in place for Spring 2023.

INTENT TO RAISE QUESTIONS

3.2 Chair Bettcher shared the following response from President Covino to Senator Talcott's intent to raise questions from the meeting of May 3, 2022 (ASM 21-16):  
I do not have enough information to respond to all of your questions at this time. As I explained to you and others at last week's Labor Council meeting, and informed the Senate Chair in a later meeting, I've authorized an independent investigation by an outside investigator of the many facts related to the removal of Professor Abdullah from the mayoral debate by campus police. The Community Care Council, which includes the Senate Chair, ASI President, and others will direct/oversee this investigation. The Council has started discussions and an investigation is expected to begin this summer. In the meantime, Vice President Williams is, at my direction, clarifying the campus police role at events and the protocols and practices that may lead to forcible removal.

INTENT TO RAISE  
QUESTIONS (continued)

I appreciate the senators' understanding of our need for more complete information about this troubling incident. Our path forward begins with investigating what occurred and the context. Once again, I apologize to all who have been distressed by this incident.

APPROVAL OF THE  
MINUTES

4. It was m/s/p (Talcott) to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 3, 2022 (ASM 21-16).

APPROVAL OF THE  
AGENDA

5. It was m/s/p (Baaske) to approve the agenda.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT

6. Chair Bettcher presented her report.

RESOLUTION OF NO-  
CONFIDENCE (21-26)  
First Reading Item

7. 7.1 It was m/s/ (Talcott) to approve the resolution.
- 7.2 It was m/s/p (Talcott) to waive the first reading item rule. Chair Bettcher read the the ratioanale to waive the rule. V: 42/2/2
- 7.3 Debate ensued.
- 7.4 It was m/s/ (Larkins) to extend the meeting end time for an additional 15 minutes. No objections were raised.
- 7.5 It was m/s/ (Abed) to call the question. No objections were raised.
- 7.6 The resolution was APPROVED. V: 40/2/2
- 7.7 It was m/s/ (Bezdecny) to forward the resolution to its recipients ahead of the approval of the minutes. No objections were raised.

ADJOURNMENT

8. It was m/s/p (Baaske) to adjourn at 3:54 p.m.



# DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

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May 09, 2022

Open letter to the Academic Senate of Cal State LA,  
CSU Board of Trustees,  
Chancellor Jolene Koester and  
Cal State LA President William A Covino

*Read aloud on May 10, 2022 by Senator Leda Ramos during Cal State LA Academic Senate Meeting*

To whom it may concern:

I condemn the actions by the Administration at Cal State LA and the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs that would so brutally treat the esteemed Cal State LA Professor and scholar and activist Dr. Melina Abdullah at the Mayoral debate event last May Day. The forced removal of Dr. Melina Abdullah, esteemed Cal State LA Professor, scholar, and activist from the Mayoral debate is absolutely unacceptable. These actions taken by campus police officers did nothing to secure the safety of event attendees, but instead humiliated and criminalized a beloved member of Cal State LA faculty. In turn, these actions have not only traumatized Dr. Melina Abdullah, but have also traumatized those students, faculty, staff, and community members in attendance. It is absolutely unacceptable to treat a Black-woman and all women in such a terrorizing manner. Further, such terrorism of any community member engaging in the political process is inappropriate and unreasonable.

Dr. Abdullah, my heart goes out to you and your family. You are seen, recognized and we demand accountability.

President William A. Covino, you are responsible for the legacy of anti-blackness on this campus. Anti-blackness is indicative of your leadership and is no longer acceptable. In the summer of 2020, I shared support for Dr. Abdullah at a Press conference held at Cal State LA when you overlooked her application as Inaugural Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies even though we know of her foundational work to create the College of Ethnic Studies and work with the Ethnic Studies AB1460 bill that is now law in large part to Dr. Abdullah's leadership. The anti-Blackness and violence to Cal State LA faculty and students must stop now. We are all deserving of equity, and dignity.

Si Se Puede!

Dolores Huerta  
President