

**Academic Senate**  
**Resolution on Professional Obligations to**  
**Curriculum and Students: the Oak Leaf**

**Whereas**, the Academic Senate supports the continuance of a campus newspaper wherein both First Amendment rights and professional instruction in journalistic standards are realized by Oak Leaf student writers and editors;

**Whereas**, the Academic Senate has on other occasions supported the development of SRJC as a Hate Free Community, supported the general education requirements of critical thinking, information literacy, as well as racial and cultural understanding;

**Whereas**, the Academic Senate is the main vehicle for faculty representation in the area of academic matters and the Academic Senate's responsibility is to emphasize academic values in all questions concerning the district listed in the California Code of Regulations (Title V, Section 53200):

- Curriculum,
- Degree and certificate requirements,
- Grading policies,
- Educational programs development,
- Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success,
- College governance structures, as related to faculty roles,
- Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes,
- Policies for faculty professional development activities,
- Processes, for program review, and
- Processes for institutional planning and budget development.

**Whereas**, the Academic Senate therefore has the duty to explore answers to questions about standards related to professional training in journalism as exhibited in the writing of "Is Anti-Semitism ever the result of Jewish Behavior" on March 18, 2003;

**Whereas**, the Academic Senate realizes that both Oak Leaf students as well as other diverse faculty, staff, and students have suffered intimidation and fear as a consequence of the published piece;

**Whereas**, the Academic Senate believes that students on the Oak Leaf staff, as well as other diverse students on campus, deserve objectivity, balanced research, and standards for professional ethics as components of classroom instruction;

**Whereas**, the Academic Senate is committed to high standards for both our faculty and students;

**Be it therefore resolved** that the Academic Senate requests that faculty in the Department of Communication Studies, and most particularly journalism faculty, advise the Academic Senate of the professional and ethical standards included in journalism curriculum and the specific steps that will be taken to either add, revise, or revisit journalism course outlines or syllabi regarding ethical and academic training needs of students in a professional journalism program.

This response shall be included in the Academic Senate agenda for the second meeting in October in the fall 2003 semester.

**Be it therefore further resolved** that the Academic Senate continues its support for the First Amendment Rights of the Oak Leaf students and staff.

**Be it therefore further resolved** that the Academic Senate shall consult collegially with the Office of Academic Affairs regarding the appropriate response to this matter as well as to concerns across the curriculum with respect to issues of racism, sexism, and gender.

Approved: May 7, 2003