RESOLUTION IN DEFENSE OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM FOR PROFESSOR ABDULHADI

Whereas, Prof. Abdulhadi has been listed as a defendant, along with several campus administrators including President Wong in a lawsuit initiated by the Lawfare Project on June 19th 2017 accusing SFSU of anti-Semitism; and

Whereas, all expressions of Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, racism, LGBTQ discrimination, etc. must be strongly condemned, and any and all charges of such forms of prejudice must be evidence-based; and

Whereas, the lawsuit makes the unsubstantiated claim that the SFSU College of Ethnic Studies, which was created as the result of the 1968 student strike and which solidified SFSU’s reputation as a social justice institution, was responsible for pervasive anti-Semitism on campus; and

Whereas, the lawsuit also makes the unsubstantiated claim that Professor Abdulhadi is anti-Semitic; and

Whereas, the lawsuit repeats the false accusation of AMCHA that Prof. Abdulhadi traveled to Jordan and Palestine with public money to meet with “representatives of designated Islamist terror organizations,” despite President Wong’s conclusion on the basis of multiple investigations that the accusation had “no merit;” and

Whereas, the lawsuit condemns Prof. Abdulhadi for her academic collaboration with An-Najah National University in Nablus, Palestine wherein the lawsuit cites the unsubstantiated claim of Campus Watch/Middle East Forum that that university is “a recruitment facility for terrorism;” and

Whereas, Prof. Abdulhadi, in addition to being falsely accused by AMCHA, has been targeted by vicious fliers posted on campus on three separate occasions by the David Horowitz Freedom Center and Canary Mission, falsely accusing her, as well as student advocates of being a “collaborator with terrorists” and of fomenting “Jew Hatred;” and

Whereas, these repeated and spurious attacks create an adverse climate to Prof. Abdulhadi’s safety and full exercise of academic freedom; and

Whereas, Prof. Abdulhadi opposes anti-Semitism as something that is “ugly and must be challenged on principled grounds of the indivisibility of justice;” and

Whereas, Prof. Rabab Abdulhadi was initially hired at SFSU in 2007 to build and direct the Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas (AMED) Studies Program but has systematically been denied the two additional faculty lines she was promised and other support she needs to fulfill this task; and
Whereas, an academic program needs sufficient resources to operate properly, including multiple faculty positions, staff, and an operating budget; and

Whereas, Prof. Abdulhadi has been severely overworked running the program without additional faculty or staff support; and

Whereas, academic freedom cannot be properly exercised without sufficient resources; nor can it be exercised when a faculty member feels unsafe on her own campus and

Whereas, CSU Chancellor White’s Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies (2016) recommended that the Chancellor’s office fund 50 new positions in ethnic studies in the CSU system, to be matched by campuses;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council calls on the administration to keep all of its hiring promises to everyone, including assuring Professor Abdulhadi the full rights of academic freedom by immediately providing the AMED Studies Programs with two additional faculty positions in addition to a budget and a staff position, as reflected in her grievance; and

Be It Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council calls on CSU and SFSU to defend Prof. Abdulhadi’s right to academic freedom by doing everything possible to prosecute as a hate crime the individuals responsible for repeatedly posting the fliers on campus that libeled Prof. Abdulhadi, GUPS (General Union of Palestine Students) and SFSU advocates for justice in Palestine; and

Be It Finally Resolved that this resolution shall be communicated to CSU Chancellor White, SFSU President Wong, and CFA statewide leadership.


Respectfully,

[Signature]

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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