

Resolution in Support of Academic Freedom

WHEREAS, academic institutions provide a forum for the free and open exchange of ideas; and

WHEREAS, libraries in academic institutions guarantee that a wide array of ideas that promote academic discourse are available; and

WHEREAS, academic institutions have in place longstanding robust grievance structures for review and redress of grievances; and

WHEREAS, most academic institutions affirm the 1940 American Association of University Professors (AAUP) "Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure" and the National Association of Librarians' "Code of Professional Ethics for Librarians" and the "Core Values of Librarianship" that are consonant with the 1940 AAUP statement, and

WHEREAS, these statements are effective safeguards of protecting the free expression rights and responsibilities guaranteed in the First Amendment of the

WHEREAS, an "Academic Bill of Rights" (ABOR) by the US Intercollegiate Society for Popular Culture, a self-described conservative organization that has been introduced in legislatures and academic institutions cannot

WHEREAS, this "Academic Bill of Rights" would impose a state-mandated agenda on academic institutions, directly interfering in course content, the classroom, the research process, and hiring and tenure decisions, and

WHEREAS, this "Academic Bill of Rights" applies principles that do not reflect current scholarly standards, as interpreted and applied by the academic profession, and

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association reaffirm the principles of academic freedom embodied in the American Association of University Professors' "Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure" (1940), and

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association oppose any legislation or codification of documents like the "Academic Bill of Rights" that would undermine academic and intellectual freedom, which is a core value of the academic community, as well as established norms and values of scholarship and educational excellence.

Moved by: Mark Rosenzweig, Councilor-at-Large
Seconded: Al Kagan, SRRT Chairman

Endorsed: IFC, IEDF, CRDE, ALAC
Endorsed in principle: ACFT, IFLA
Oregon Chapter

REVIEWED FOR CONFORMATION WITH
Council Resolutions
by Councilor-at-Large Committee

Supporting evidence:

- 1940 American Association of University Professors (AAUP) "Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure" (1940), <http://www.aaup.org/statements/tenure/1940-statement>
- Academic Bill of Rights analysis, AAUP, <http://www.aaup.org/statements/SpecStat/Statements/billofrights.htm>
- Academic Bill of Rights legislation, AAUP, <http://www.aaup.org/issue/ABOR/abors.htm>
- "Freedom to Read Statement" (ALA Policy Manual 53.1.17), <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statements/freedomtoread.htm>
- "Library Bill of Rights" (ALA Policy Manual 53.1.18)
- "Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries" (ALA Policy Manual 53.1.18), <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statements/intellectualfreedomprinciplesforacademiclibraries.htm>
- "The Code of Professional Ethics for Librarians" (ALA Policy Manual 40.2.10)
- "Core Values of Librarianship" (ALA Policy Manual 40.1)
- "Academic Bill of Rights" <http://www.statelibrary.org/academicbillofrights>