Resolution Supporting the Fundamental Importance of Academic Freedom

Whereas universities are maintained for the common good and thus are committed to the advancement of knowledge, truth, and understanding, and

Whereas academic freedom is the fundamental foundation for the discovery and dissemination of knowledge, truth, and understanding, and

Whereas a liberal arts education necessarily relies on the intellectual debate, the reciprocal exchange of opinions, and the unrestricted access to multiple sources of information and perspectives, and

Whereas academic freedom is essential not only to sustain such debate, exchange, and access, but also provide opportunities for students and faculty to explore multiple perspectives across the humanities, arts, and sciences without fear of censorship or retaliation, and

Whereas academic freedom is necessary to protect both students and faculty from impositions of external ideologies that seek to curtail the free and open discovery and dissemination of knowledge, truth, and understanding, and

Whereas the Supreme Court in 1967 ruled that academic freedom is a right protected by the First Amendment, stating

our nation is deeply committed to safeguarding academic freedom, which

 is of transcendent value to all of us and not merely to the teachers concerned.

That freedom is therefore a special concern of the First Amendment, which

does not tolerate laws that cast a pall of orthodoxy over the classroom . . .

(Keyishian v Board of Regents), and

Whereas TCU publicly proclaims its commitment to “intellectual inquiry and the creation of knowledge” as an institutional core value,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the TCU Faculty Senate affirms its absolute commitment to academic freedom as a vital protection of both students and faculty in all areas of pedagogy and research, that in a time of civil, social, and political instability it acknowledges its responsibility uphold this most esteemed and long-established university foundation.