

Email Comments on Item 6.10: Palestine Resolution

During its April 11th meeting, Cañada Academic Senate reviewed a draft resolution on Palestine and the conflict in Gaza. There was not enough time to take comments from everyone who desired to do so. Below are comments emailed to Academic Senate President David Eck.

- These are emails from individuals who explicitly stated that they wanted their comments publicly posted on Cañada's Academic Senate website.
- Names are included if the person explicitly stated that they wanted their name included.
- Public comments are listed in the order they were received.

Anyone who would like to make comments or further comments will have an opportunity to do so if Cañada's Academic Senate takes up the topic at another meeting.

Email Public Comment – John Hawat

These times will be remembered in history and those who had been silent for this genocide will go down in history for it! I'm a first generation Palestinian American and I ask you to please do the right thing and take a stance against genocide.

Email Public Comment

As part of its commitment to social justice, Canada College acknowledges that it sits on the traditional land of the Ramatyush Ohlone people, who were colonized in the not so distant past. Imagine if, as you were conducting your regular meeting tomorrow, the Ohlone and other affinity groups acting in solidarity with them were to storm the meeting, take you hostage, rape some amongst you, and kill others for the sin of existing on their occupied land. Would you cheer these acts as liberation because, after all, *decolonization is not a metaphor?*

It should be plain for all to see that this would be cruel, horrific, and intolerable, despite the past injustice inflicted upon the Ohlone and yet...

On tomorrow's agenda, you will discuss the propriety of issuing a "Palestine Resolution." There is no doubt that the Palestinian people are currently suffering, but why? What act initiated this suffering? Why do the Palestinians continue to hold approximately 130 hostages? Why have they rejected all of the proffered ceasefire resolutions? Hamas, an internationally recognized terror organization, leads them. Why does the blame always fall on Israel, which ceded all control of Gaza to Palestinians, in 2005? They don't hide their intentions: Palestinians "don't want no two state" – they want to rule the land "from the river to the sea." There is no room, according to Hamas, for Israelites in their ancestral homeland.

I am not Jewish. I have no stake in this fight other than decency. We should not celebrate rape, kidnapping or murdering civilians, no matter how trendy the cause. Jewish people have been

persecuted as long as history has been recorded. My heart also mourns for the Palestinian women, children and yes, their fathers and brothers too, who are needlessly suffering due to the savage acts of their rulers.

I do not know the solution, but I know that the Canada College Academic Senate will not meaningfully advance one. Centuries have not found a solution. You have no jurisdiction over this matter, no foreign policy expertise. I trust that you have good intentions and hope that you will exercise them to ensure that the millennial debate does not manifest itself on your campus to create an environment of division and hate.

Please do not pass a resolution related to this issue. Let San Mateo County remain a safe haven for all who find themselves here, wherever they come from. Regardless of politics or religion, please lead with kindness, humility and compassion.

Email Public Comment

I urge you to avoid discussing any resolution regarding the Israel/Hamas conflict. Such resolutions are divisive and create an unsafe environment for many of our Jewish students. Below are a couple examples from a recent Foothill College discussion on the subject:

1. I was called to my face "piece of Sxxx" just because I shared the poster below, which was published by the Foothill College Social Club. The same club that ironically supported the resolution named "Call For Sustainable Peace and Safety For All Children"
2. Also pasted below is a snapshot from a text with my teenage daughter, who takes a class with Foothill College. The text is when I asked her to come and talk for 1 min in front of her peers and faculty.
3. There were many other instances of antisemitic physical and verbal abuse due to discussions on the topic.

I encourage you to follow the Foothill College Academic Senate position that it is NOT within its purview to discuss / generate such resolution.



Email Public Comment

If we make a stance that we won't be making any resolutions related to international incidences that impact our students or emphasize a particular student group we prevent ourselves from passing resolutions like the one in [Support of Students Affected by the Coup in Myanmar](#) or the [Resolution to Denounce Anti-Asian Racism and Violence](#) passed at our sister colleges. This would prevent Academic Senate from recommending specific actions from our College, such as cultural education events or reasonable academic accommodations, that support particular groups of students.

Email Public Comment

I am writing to support the Palestine resolution discussed at your Academic Senate meeting today.

Thank you!

Email Public Comment

On the note of precedence for Academic Senate to take up this issue, District Academic Senate passed [Resolution 1.01 in the Fall of 2020](#) 'A Vision for Social Justice in Governance at SMCCCD', which states:

Whereas, Educational equity is the dismantling of oppressive, discriminatory practices, policies, and other unjust structures and the creation of those that empower students and promote justice;

[...]

Whereas, Achieving social justice means that every student is valued, nurtured, and affirmed, and that they see their cultures, epistemologies, and identities reinforced and celebrated in every facet of the institution;

[...]

Whereas, Achieving social justice is a fight that educational institutions must engage in and is one that requires courageous and bold leadership in the face of resistance and criticism;

On another note, I echo Lisa's message that I was so grateful to all who came to represent the 'Cons' side and shared their painful experiences past and present. The prejudice that they've experienced is also not in alignment with our work and cannot be tolerated—could the resolution be re-worded to include support for our Israeli students? As Diana mentioned, I support the idea of a work group tasked with revisions to the proposed resolution should they be called for.

Lastly, the last commenter, 'MB', mentioned that their daughter was currently experiencing prejudicial behavior in their coursework from fellow students and the instructor's response was not sufficient. I know there isn't a way to contact MB, or to follow up to get more information,

but could we put together guidance for faculty and students on how to best respond and report incidents like this?

Email Public Comment - Doniella Maher

I am speaking in support of the Resolution, which requests the bare minimum in response to what is recognized as a severe humanitarian crisis and loss of civilian life of the Palestinian people. As an educator, community member, and human, I reject the argument that we are not allowed to weigh in on how we can support our students and ensure that they have the resources they need to thrive at our college. I also reject the argument that we are not allowed to recognize that the death of over 30,000 Palestinians is a humanitarian crisis that requires an immediate ceasefire. These are not radical ideas.

My job, in my role as an educator, means recognizing when events in the world come to our doorstep and require us to say something aloud because we have a responsibility to speak out in the face of catastrophic oppression and violence. It is THIS reality that necessitates a resolution such as this. To tell our students that we see them. That we acknowledge that some of them have lost entire families, and that we support them in accessing services, but that we also stand by them in their request for a simple human response, a ceasefire. To say that we believe children shouldn't be dying and homes shouldn't be destroyed, and that the students who face this reality deserve support and services seems, to me, the very least we should do.

Email Public Comment

As a faculty member at Cañada College, I am appreciative of the comments that were made at the Academic Senate meeting on 11 April 2024. I am proud to live in a society that allows for viewpoints from all perspectives to be heard—something for which many in my family have fought. However, I do not feel that many of the folks who spoke against the proposed Palestine Resolution were as informed as they could have been on the situation or the resolution. They brought prepared remarks about a resolution that they had not truly read; as such, their comments were not directed at the resolution. Many of their comments created an intimidating environment for those in the room, perhaps on Zoom, too. I acknowledge that as a Brown Act body that allows public access and public comment, this can create opportunities for heated discussion. Yet by creating an atmosphere that is less about dialogue and more about haranguing members of the faculty body who authored the resolution, as well as anyone who might side with them, I feel that the agenda item was not actually debated as it should have been. I hope that in future people feel free to voice their dissent in ways that are respectful, just as they wish to have their words received, so that we can have constructive dialogue.

To that end, I do wish for there to be more discussion of this resolution. I also agree with the comment that there could (perhaps should) be a work group to further hone the resolution. This would ensure that it is a fully inclusive resolution, that the wording is as tight as it can be. As it

stands now, this is a powerful resolution that argues its point well; there could be a bit more finessing while still capturing all that has been put into the current version.

Finally, there were members of the community who suggested that such a resolution is not within the 10+1, and therefore not within the duties of the Academic Senate. With all due respect to them, I believe that they focused on the 10 duties, and overlooked the +1. The +1 is, I would argue, the most important element in this discussion. Such a resolution does fall within the purview of the Academic Senate, as it does relate to the academic environment in which we work and learn. To have conversations with our students about world events and how they relate to the curriculum of a course--that is exactly germane to the argument. Given that most faculty—myself included—have had students talk about what they're seeing on social media, the history behind these events, the definition of genocide and how it can be (and is accurately being) applied to the events in Gaza, it is well within the duties of the Academic Senate to entertain such a resolution and to vote on it.

Email Public Comment

Thank you for adding the discussion about a resolution to take a stand against genocide to today's Academic Senate meeting agenda.

As a student at Cañada College, I would like to express my full support to this resolution and stress the need for faculty to support us students to strongly condemn the ongoing atrocities in Gaza.

Also, it's fundamental that we protect our Palestinian/Palestinian American students across the district who were deeply affected by this situation as they lost loved ones in Palestine.

The student Academic Senate already unanimously passed a resolution to call for a ceasefire and condemn Israeli war crimes. Faculty (and everyone else) can't stay silent!

Thank you very much for your time and free Palestine!

Email Public Comment

I'm honored to call the faculty Canada College colleagues! The mobilization of our knowledge and scholarship in service of action is the highest calling of our profession. The position that both Canada College and Skyline College academic senate's have taken are examples of how we have taken our responsibility to make real our ideals of equity and anti-racism seriously. I support your resolution because:

1. As academics we do not lead with emotion, we lead with curiosity. We inform our curiosity with disciplined research and arrive to scholarship. It is through this process we arrive to an understanding of truth, which in turn, informs our emotions. In other words, we let facts inform our feelings, rather than fantasy and fallacy, as is often the case of those on the other side of this debate. Your impassioned action on behalf of Palestinian students and colleagues is one rooted in intellectual discipline and morality.

2. As we consider this matter we need to lean on our equity and anti-racist frameworks of thought. You'd be hard pressed to find scholars of equity and anti-racism that believe there is a middle ground between equity and inequity, a middle ground between racism and anti-racism. To stay silent or maintain a stance of neutrality regarding the 80-year process of ethnic cleansing faced by Palestinians is to side with the systems and structures that perpetuate this injustice. Your resolution rightfully situates itself on the side of equity and anti-racism.
3. Lastly, equity necessitates a needs-based approach. More precisely, those that have been disproportionately the targets of systemic injustice need to be provided special attention to correct the inequities produced by discriminatory structures. Therefore, your resolution, rightly, focuses on the needs of Palestinians rather than distort the realities on the ground by placing the perspectives and desires of the oppressor on equal footing as those being oppressed.

I'm inspired by your academic courage and your commitment to mobilize your knowledge in service of justice.

Email Public Comment

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity for our community to share our comments and elucidate why the suggested resolution by Professor Hoffman is unsuitable for the Academic Senate to issue, for numerous reasons.

As mentioned, the resolution is egregiously one-sided, hateful, and replete with inaccuracies, some of which constitute blatant lies. Issuing this resolution would contravene the law, even more than Foothill's resolution. The Foothill College Academic Senate opted against issuing its resolution after the president of the board and the president of the senate apprised the Senators of the legal ramifications associated with issuing a discriminatory resolution. Enclosed is the letter that was presented to the academic senate during the meeting.

During the meeting today, it was noted that the Academic Senate issued a resolution supporting students affected by the coup in Myanmar. However, the issuance of this resolution does not refute the possibility of the Senate violating its 10+1 purview. It is crucial to note that the resolution was not politically motivated or directed against any particular nationality or race; rather, it was primarily focused on devising ways to assist students. The fact that the conflict in Myanmar has claimed the lives of 50,000 individuals was not even mentioned.

We understand that your primary concern is the well-being of all students, and we deeply appreciate it. Should the Academic Senate deem it necessary to issue a

resolution, we propose the resolution below. This resolution was put forth by the community to Foothill College, with over [870](#) members endorsing the letter urging Foothill College to adopt the below resolution instead of the one on the agenda.

Canada College can promote education and students' well-being without vilifying or delegitimizing Jewish and Israeli students and faculty.

It is imperative to remember that Israeli students and Jewish students with ties to Israel have also endured trauma. The brutality of the October 7th attack, coupled with Israel's small size (equivalent to that of New Jersey), means that virtually everyone has a personal connection to someone affected. Furthermore, 133 hostages remain captive in Gaza, and rocket attacks and acts of terrorism persist daily. Hundreds of thousands of individuals are unable to return to their homes, and 300,000 have been forced to leave their families, risking their lives in a war they did not seek. In the past months alone, 604 IDF soldiers have lost their lives.

If the Academic Senate decides to proceed with issuing an alternate resolution by forming a committee, the committee must include members who advocate for the Jewish and Israeli communities.

Please share my letter with the rest of the Senators.

++++ Proposed Resolution referenced in the above message. (President Eck has removed "Foothill College" and replaced it with empty brackets "[]" since the below proposed resolution has not been adopted by Foothill College Academic Senate as of April 12, 2024 and since it is being offered as a resolution for Cañada's Academic Senate to consider.)

WHEREAS, [] Academic Senate is committed to creating inclusive and just conditions where all students, staff, and faculty feel a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, [] Academic Senate cherishes our cultural richness and strives to ensure all students, staff, faculty, and community members feel safe, respected, and heard, regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, immigration status, country of origin, or any other characteristic; and

WHEREAS, [] Academic Senate recognizes that times of war and strife impact students in our classrooms and encourages all staff to support students by creating environments in classrooms that build empathy and compassion and promote constructive dialogue where no student or staff member feels singled out for their identity, nationality, ethnicity or religious affiliation; be it

RESOLVED, that the [] Academic Senate will take proactive measures to provide resources and support to individuals who may be affected by ongoing conflicts, including access to counseling services, support groups, and educational materials aimed at fostering understanding and empathy; be it further

RESOLVED, The [] Academic Senate will actively engage in dialogue and educational initiatives aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the complexities surrounding the Middle East conflict, with the goal of promoting empathy, tolerance, and peaceful conflict resolution within our community; be it further

RESOLVED, The [] Academic Senate will work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders, including student organizations, faculty members, community leaders, and mental health professionals, to develop and implement initiatives that promote peace, understanding, and mutual respect among all members of our community; be it further

RESOLVED, The [] Academic Senate calls upon other institutions and organizations to join us in our commitment to promoting safety, equality, and inclusivity amidst the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, recognizing that solidarity and collaboration are essential in fostering a more peaceful and harmonious world.

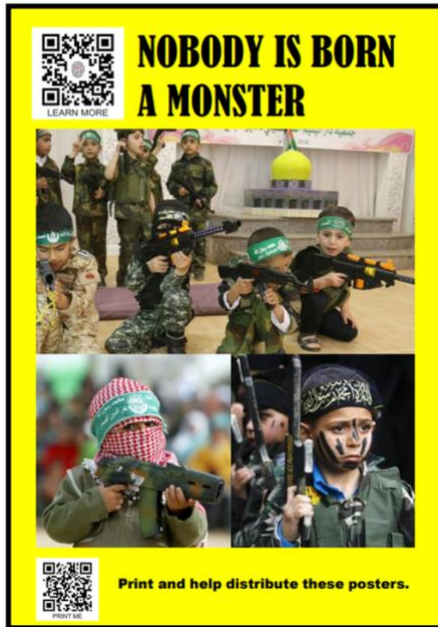
Email Public Comment - Nadav

I urge you and the academic senate to refrain from having a resolution on the Israel/Hamas conflict, as such resolutions are often very divisive.

There are a few things I'd like to mention in the event that you still insist on going with such resolution:

- **Hamas attack terror attack on Oct. 7 and beyond:**
 1. Hamas is a terror organization, which was elected by the people of Gaza.
 2. Hamas killed over 1200 people and kidnapped more than 200 hostages.
 - a. ~10 months old to elders over 80.
 - b. People from many nationalities (American included) and religions (Jews/Christians/Muslims/etc.)
 - c. The Oct 7 attack by Hamas is x10-15 proportionally when compared to 9/11 -> That is 30,000-45,000 people were killed in 9/11. In fact, Oct. 7 is being considered as the worst day since the holocaust (something that should not be taken lightly)
 3. Hamas committed and is committing war crimes.
 - a. Hamas committed atrocious war crimes: women were raped, kids and babies were beheaded and burnt alive, bodies were mutilated.
 - b. Hamas is still holding more than 130 hostages (some who are American citizens)
 4. Hamas is responsible for the suffering of Palestinian people:
 - a. Hamas is using the billions of \$ that were given by the world to build Gaza for war purposes (tunnels, ammuniton, explosives, rockets, etc.).
 - b. [Mousa Abu Marzouk, Deputy Chairman of the Hamas Political Bureau, talking about why Hamas didn't build any bomb shelters for the people of Gaza](#) "Since you built 500 km of tunnels, **why haven't you built bomb shelters where civilians can hide during bombardment?** These tunnels are meant to protect us [Hamas] from the airplanes. We are fighting from inside the tunnels...**it's the responsibility of the UN to protect them.**
 - c. Hamas is using the Palestinian people as human shields.

- d. Hamas is depriving the people of Gaza from the humanitarian aid provided to them during this war.
5. Hamas is using mosques, hospitals, schools, UNRWA facilities to conduct its terror acts (shooting rockets, hiding ammunition, etc.)
6. Hamas shot more than 10,000 rockets at Israel.
7. Hamas, which is in control of the education in Gaza, established as part of the teaching curriculum a hate doctrine against Israel and praised Hitler and the Nazis as role models. See attached poster with QR code for many more short reels. Multiple UNRWA employees participated in the Oct. 7 attack, some who were teachers!



- **Israel:**

1. Jews are not just white. There are Ethiopian / Indian/ Moroccan/ Egyptian/ Iranian/Iraqi jews.
2. In 1948, there were 850,000 Jews in Arab countries, who were expelled or left under duress. Today, fewer than 3,500 remain.
3. Jews are less than 0.2% of the world's population.
4. Jews are the indigenous people of this region (Take Jesus for example)
5. Israel was decolonized from the British. Israel is NOT the colonizer.
6. Israel, the only Jewish state in the world, roughly the size of NJ/NH (~70 miles across the widest spot, and only ~10 miles at the narrowest spot.) vs. **22** countries in the [Arab League](#) and **57** countries in the OIC ([Organization of Islamic Cooperation](#))
7. ~20% of Israel population is Arab-Israeli, many identify themselves as Palestinians. They serve in key positions in Israel such as: government officials, supreme court judges, special forces in the military.
8. Fun fact – An Arab-Israel Supreme Court judge was one of 3 judges that sent Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert, to prison.

- **Ceasefire:**

1. We all want peace, but unconditional ceasefire with Hamas still in power is not the solution. In order for ceasefire to exit, two conditions must be met
 - a. Release of all hostages in Gaza (dead or alive)
 - b. Disarm of Hamas / Removal of Hamas from power
2. Hamas violated the ceasefire on Oct. 6, and a couple ceasefires post Oct. 7. Hamas refuses to a ceasefire multiple times and is holding the hostages as if they were bargaining chips.
3. White House National Security Adviser, Jake Sullivan, addressing ceasefire efforts with Hamas saying, "ceasefire is on the table today 6wks. for women/elder/injured, and the fact that Hamas is refusing tell a lot to how they value Palestinians lives." Watch this 2 min video: [White House National Security Adviser, Jake Sullivan, addressing ceasefire efforts with Hamas \(2 min video\)](#)
4. Hamas vowed to repeat the Oct 7 massacre. So, ask yourself... How can you stop the fighting against this terror organization before the hostages are brought back and Hamas is being removed from power?
5. **Last, but not least / The Bottom Line:**
 - a. This is not about race, nationality, or any such thing. This is good vs. evil. Israel never wanted and doesn't want this war. Israel was FORCED into it.
 - b. If Israelis will put their weapons down, they will all be dead, and Israel will vanish. If the other side will put their weapons down, we will live in peace.

- **Genocide:**

1. Genocide is defined as "the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group", while the large # is not fully defined and can be subjective, the intent (i.e. aim of destroying) is the most important criterion.
2. I believe majority of people believe that what's going on in Israel and Gaza is a tragedy, but let's separate between tragedy and genocide.
 - a. It's very apparent that Israel has no intention to wipe out the Palestinian
 - i. There are more than 2 million Palestinians in Gaza, and the IDF is trying to limit as much as possible the civilian casualties while trying to eliminate Hamas.
 - ii. Israel could have ended this war in a couple of weeks.
 - iii. I encourage you to read the "[Israel Implemented More Measures to Prevent Civilian Casualties Than Any Other Nation in History:](#)" An opinion article by John Spencer, chair of urban warfare studies at the Modern War Institute (MWI) at West Point; served for 25 years as an infantry soldier and two tours in Iraq.
 - b. ~20% of Israel population is Arab-Israeli, many of whom many are identifying themselves as Palestinians. The Arab Israelis are serving in key positions in Israel such as: government officials, supreme court judges, special forces in IDF).
 - c. The #s in war can be misleading/manipulated. For ref. in WW2, "Only" 400K us soldiers died while 6M (1M civilians) German died...does this mean that the US and its allies committed genocide?
 - d. On the other side, it's clear that **Hamas has the genocide intention** of all Israelis/jews and will do so if given the opportunity!
 - i. Hamas vowed to repeat Oct 7 again and again.

- ii. "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it" (The Martyr, Imam Hassan al-Banna, of blessed memory).
 - iii. "The Day of Judgement will not come about until Moslems fight the Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Moslems, O Abdulla, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him. Only the Gharkad tree, (evidently a certain kind of tree) would not do that because it is one of the trees of the Jews." (related by al-Bukhari and Moslem)."
3. Some links about the subject:
- a. [What is blood libel, and why accusing Israel of genocide is a new example of it. Facts and Data.](#): ~10 mins. educational video about why it's WRONG to accuse Israel of genocide.
 - b. [5 Myths about Israel and the War in Gaza \(You Tube\) / Apple Podcast: Making Sense](#): ~40 mins. podcast by Sam Harris
- Israelis will put their weapons down, they will all be dead, and Israel will vanish. If the other side will put their weapons down, we will live in peace.

**Thanks,
Nadav**