



Resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the University of Houston Faculty Senate

February 25, 2022

WHEREAS the importance of academic freedom as noted in the 1940 statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors constitutes a foundational pillar of UH research and educational mission, and

WHEREAS under principles of academic freedom, faculty are empowered to conduct their research, explore novel concepts, and teach their particular subject following the professional standards set by their disciplines, where decisions about curriculum and subject matter should rest on the faculty who have expertise without influence from outside political entities; and

WHEREAS a diversity of views and an atmosphere of respectful and civil discussion on potentially sensitive subjects including race and discrimination in America is the bedrock of a university classroom; and

WHEREAS the recent statements of Texas state officials opposed to tenure and teaching about issues of race in the classroom are detrimental to the reputation of higher education as a whole and Texas institutions in particular and have important implications in a variety of domains including the hiring and retaining of top faculty and students and the attainment of the goals of the UH Strategic Plan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate of the University of Houston reaffirms the principle of academic freedom in our research and within our classrooms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm the stance of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, American Association of University Professors, and scores of other higher education organizations, including several institutions in the state of Texas, that faculty should make the decisions about scholarship and teaching.