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June 22, 2026

The Honorable Sasha Renée Pérez
Chair, Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2551 (Elhawary), as amended on June 11, 2026
Scheduled for hearing in the Senate Education Committee on July 1, 2026
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair Pérez:

The University of California (University) respectfully opposes AB 2551 (Elhawary), which would require changes to annual student code of conduct reporting, establish new hearing requirements related to the University's time, place, and manner (TPM) policies, and repeal important provisions of the University's TPM framework that were recently implemented to strengthen campus safety, protect civil rights, combat antisemitism, and support the consistent administration of content-neutral conduct standards.

The University has devoted significant effort to developing, implementing, and enforcing campus TPM policies that protect our campus community while preserving constitutionally protected expression. Our current TPM policies apply to all community members, including faculty, staff, students, student groups and labor unions, as well as to non-affiliates. These policies were adopted following extensive consideration of challenges experienced across the University's campuses and are intended to provide clear expectations and advance notice to our community members regarding campus conduct standards. TPM policies help the University address conduct that crosses the line from protected expression into unlawful disruption, intimidation, obstruction, or harassment, while continuing to safeguard free expression.

The University is also concerned that the hearing process proposed in AB 2551 is duplicative of the University's existing and well-established channels for student input, engagement, and feedback. Students may already provide public comment at Board of Regents meetings, participate in governance through the Student Regent positions, and engage directly with campus and system leadership through regular meetings and listening sessions. In addition, the University's civil rights infrastructure provides mechanisms for addressing students' concerns related to discrimination and harassment.

AB 2551 could also create uncertainty regarding policies and requirements that were only recently adopted and implemented following the enactment of SB 1287 (2024). Since that legislation was signed into law, University leadership and campuses have invested significant time and resources to strengthen campus safety, support free expression, and enhance civil rights protections. Changes that discourage, weaken, or repeal key components of the University's content-neutral TPM policies could complicate these ongoing efforts and diminish the effectiveness of educational tools such as the University's required student

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training, *Discourse and Free Expression: Understanding Your Rights and Responsibilities at the University of California*, which serves as an important component of the University's broader efforts to help students understand their rights and responsibilities and to address antisemitism, harassment, intimidation, and disruptive conduct on campus.

The University remains committed to protecting freedom of expression while addressing discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and disruptive conduct. The University appreciates the author's interest in these important issues but believes AB 2551 is not an effective approach to advancing these shared goals.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions about the University's position on AB 2551, please contact me at Jessica.Duong@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Duong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Duong
Legislative Director

cc: Vice Chair and Members, Senate Education Committee
Assemblymember Sade Elhawary
President James B. Milliken