Resolution in Support of Student Journalism at Las Positas College

WHEREAS, The Journalism and Media Studies Program requires students to participate in The Express to prepare them for a career as skilled professionals in the Journalism field, one of the objectives of which is to hold elected officials accountable to the public;

WHEREAS, Student journalists play an integral role in information sharing on campuses, reporting on district and college governance, empowering local communities, and contributing to the collective understanding of institutional planning and budget processes;

WHEREAS, The Las Positas College Student Government Bylaws state that their purpose is to "Promote, coordinate, and evaluate Student Life activities, including but not limited to, educational, cultural, recreational, and social events in the interest of all Las Positas College Students;"

WHEREAS, The Las Positas College Student Government Bylaws states that its values include "Accountability to the public;"

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 6, Subsection A of the Las Positas College Student Government Bylaws states that all Officers of LPCSG must "Refrain from reporting on any LPCSG business, activities, or events to any newspaper or publication without formal approval from the LPCSG Advisor, LPCSG Director of Outreach, and LPCSG President," and that the consequences for violations include impeachment from office;

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States of America guarantees freedom of speech and of the press in the First Amendment;

WHEREAS, The Las Positas College Values Statement includes a commitment to demonstrating civic responsibility, promoting ethical behavior, and fostering a climate of discovery;

WHEREAS, Prohibiting elected officials from speaking to journalists constitutes a violation of the First Amendment, an obstruction to Learning Outcomes and Curriculum under the purview of Faculty, and is antithetical to the values espoused by the Las Positas College administration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Las Positas College Academic Senate supports student journalists and their First Amendment rights, including their ability to as questions of any duly elected government representatives on any elected body; and

RESOLVED, That the Las Positas College Academic Senate supports the Las Positas College Student Government revisiting its bylaws to better align them with the United States Constitution, Las Positas College Values, and the curricular needs of students in the Journalism and Media Studies Program when they reopen them in Spring 2027.