

**Resolution Condemning the Cancellation of Professor Eric Cheyfitz's Classes
and Threats of Further Severe Disciplinary Action**

Whereas Cornell University Policy 6.4 sets forth procedures for the investigation and resolution of allegations of discrimination by and against Cornell faculty, staff, and students;

Whereas a student filed a complaint in the Spring 2025 semester alleging that Professor Eric Cheyfitz, the Ernest I. White Professor of American Studies and Humane Letters in the Department of Literatures in English and a member of the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program, had discriminated against him based on his Israeli national origin;

Whereas the facts supporting the student's complaint were reviewed by six members of the Faculty Senate's Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status of Faculty (AFPSF) pursuant to Policy 6.4, and the six members of the committee unanimously concluded that there was insufficient evidence of discrimination;

Whereas the AFPSF Committee simultaneously found that the issue of sanctions need not be considered, as there was insufficient proof to sustain the student's allegations;

Whereas Policy 6.4 plainly states: "The dean or equivalent unit head must accept the [AFPSF] Committee's findings of fact and conclusions;"

Whereas the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences disregarded the mandate of Policy 6.4 and instead recommended that Professor Cheyfitz be suspended without pay for two semesters;

Whereas the Provost likewise rejected the unanimous conclusion of the AFPSF Committee, ordered new disciplinary proceedings against Professor Cheyfitz, and cancelled his classes for the Fall 2025 semester, entitled "Contemporary Native American Fiction" and "Thinking from a Different Place: Indigenous Philosophies";

Whereas the failure of the Dean and the Provost to accept the findings of the AFPSF Committee is a clear violation of University Policy 6.4;

Whereas the cancellation of Professor Cheyfitz's classes amounts to punishment without process;

Whereas the convening of a new disciplinary proceeding is unwarranted and violates principles of due process;

Whereas the University's punishment of Professor Cheyfitz coincides with enormous government pressure on universities to restrict expressions of support for Palestinians' human rights;

Whereas the University's actions represent a serious attack on academic freedom;

Be it therefore resolved that the Faculty Senate censure the central administration of Cornell University for its failure to follow the procedures set forth in University Policy 6.4, including its rejection of the findings of the AFPSF Committee and imposition of severe sanctions on a Cornell faculty member before any findings of wrongdoing;

Be it further resolved that the University should accept the findings of the AFPSF Committee, discontinue any new investigation based on the same allegations, reinstate Professor Cheyfitz's classes, and refrain from imposing any disciplinary sanctions against him;

Be it further resolved that the University renew its commitment to protecting academic freedom, even in the face of political pressure.

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