

Greetings Campus Community:

In light of the recent nationwide protests that are occurring and the response of college administrators to these encampments, We, the Associated Students Organization, recognize and support the First Amendment right to free speech and peaceful assembly that students are entitled to.

We are appalled by the recent violence that is occurring at these different institutions and recognize the long history of opposition that the California higher education system has towards student movements and limiting speech.

In alignment with the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) we are committed to creating a safe environment for students to express themselves while cultivating a mutual respect for opposing views. Higher education is meant to expose students to unfamiliar thoughts and ideas and silencing student voices defeats the fundamental basis of education and democracy.

On behalf of the students who are transferring from this institution, we are disappointed to see the actions of college administrators in the University of California and California State University systems regarding the student assemblies and we hope to see a change in approach.

Like the SSCCC, it's the responsibility of the institution to respect the views and protect the peaceful assembly of students. Collectively, both the outgoing and incoming leadership of ASO hope that the El Camino College administration will put student safety and student rights at the forefront of their response should a peaceful assembly occur.

Sincerely,



Jose Merino

President