

ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Proposed by CAUT/Canada and UTAG/Ghana

The 8th Education International (EI) World Congress meeting in Bangkok, Thailand from 21st to 26th July 2019:

- (1) *Affirms* the critical importance of academic freedom for advancing and disseminating knowledge, fostering independent thinking and expression, strengthening democracy, and contributing to the common good of societies.
- (2) *Recalls* that the 1997 UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel defines academic freedom as the right of all academic staff, without constriction by prescribed doctrine, to:
 - (i) freedom of teaching and discussion;
 - (ii) freedom in carrying out research and disseminating and publishing the results thereof;
 - (iii) freedom to express their opinion about the institution or system in which they work;
 - (iv) freedom from institutional censorship; and,
 - (v) freedom to participate in professional or representative academic bodies.
- (3) *Asserts* that higher education teaching personnel should also enjoy, without interference, internationally recognized civil, political, social and cultural rights applicable to all citizens.
- (4) *Welcomes* Education International's research and advocacy around the 1997 UNESCO Recommendation.
- (5) *Notes* the many threats to academic freedom today including state interference and repression, and pressures arising from commercialization, privatization, and managerialism.
- (6) *Further notes* that casualization of employment amongst higher education teaching personnel is undermining tenure or its functional equivalent as a necessary procedural safeguard for the exercise and protection of academic freedom.

(7) Congress mandates the EI Executive Board to:

- (i) Monitor and publicize threats to and violations of academic freedom.
- (ii) Campaign actively to defend higher education teaching personnel whose academic freedom is threatened or violated.
- (iii) Assist affiliates with monitoring the implementation of the *1997 UNESCO Recommendation* and with presenting allegations to the Joint ILO-UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART).
- (iv) Lobby the ILO and UNESCO to provide more resources to CEART so that it can better promote awareness of the *1997 UNESCO Recommendation*, increase the frequency of its meetings, and expand its capacity to receive and consider complaints.
- (v) Facilitate regional dialogues amongst affiliates and stakeholders on academic freedom, privatization, and the conditions facing casualized higher education teaching personnel.

Amendments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6: SNCS -FSU

1.Paragraph (2): Add after the words “Recalls that the *1997 UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel*” the words “and the UNESCO Recommendation from 1974, amended in 2017, on Science and Scientific Researchers”; replace ‘Defines’ by ‘define’; add after the words “the right of all academic” the words” and research”.

2.Paragraph (3): Add after the words “higher education teaching personnel” the words “and researchers”

3.Paragraph (4): Add at the end of the paragraph the words “*and the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation 1974 amended in 2017*”.

4.Paragraphs (6) and (7) points (ii) and (v): Delete the word” teaching” and replace it with “and research”.

5.Paragraph (7) point (iii), Add after the words “*the 1997 UNESCO Recommendation* “, the words “*and of the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation amended in 2017*”.

6.Paragraph (7) point (iv), Add after the words “*the 1997 UNESCO Recommendation*”, the words “*and of the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation amended in 2017*”.

Amendment 7: SNTE

7. In paragraph 7 (ii) delete “Campaign actively” and insert instead “Organize campaigns to disseminate the UNESCO recommendation of 1997 and”