

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION #5
ENSURING A PEACEFUL AND MEANINGFUL ALL
CAMPUS COMMENCEMENT**



WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Association of the University of California, San Diego (GSAUCSD), which represents approximately 6000 graduate and professional students, is committed to ensuring a peaceful and meaningful commencement for students,

WHEREAS, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama (simplified as the *14th Dalai Lama* in the rest of the text), is planned to speak at two UC San Diego events, including the invitation-only UC San Diego All Campus Commencement June 17, 2017,^{1,2}

WHEREAS, the 14th Dalai Lama has historically been a controversial religious figure because of his ideological background, resulting in protests from Buddhist groups,³ as well as protests at UC Berkeley and objections,⁴

WHEREAS, the 14th Dalai Lama's selection as commencement keynote speaker has caused objections among students at UCSD,^{5, 6, 7, 8}

WHEREAS, without proper response to protest and disagreement, students may feel ignored and offended, which could negatively affect our multi-cultural campus and violate the core values of UCSD,

WHEREAS, the transparency of the commencement speaker selection procedure is unclear and no official process to ensure undergraduate and graduate student input exists,

BE IT RESOLVED, that pragmatic measures be taken to respect the various positions, including:

- Bilingually (in Mandarin and English) announce and provide a short intermission before and after the speech by the Dalai Lama, to allow those with objections to efficiently leave and return to their seats,
- Develop and announce a plan to safely and respectfully accommodate potential protests, which are likely to occur due to the presence of the Dalai Lama, while maintaining the integrity and atmosphere of the commencement,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, GSAUCSD requests that the UCSD administration provide a written response to GSAUCSD providing details for the selection process of all keynote and commencement speakers, including the 14th Dalai Lama as this year's keynote speaker,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, GSAUCSD requests a change in the current policy to allow 2 graduate student representatives (including 1 international student), as appointed by GSAUCSD, to participate in the selection of all future keynote and other commencement

speakers at UCSD,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, GSAUCSD encourages undergraduate UCSD student governments to decide on the extent of their participation in the selection of keynote and commencement speakers at UCSD,

TO BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to the Office of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs and that they provide a response to GSAUCSD on how these concerns can be addressed.

References:

[1] <http://commencement.ucsd.edu/>

[2] https://sixth.ucsd.edu/programs_events/commencement/all-campus-faq.html

[3] <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-dalai-lama-idUSKCN0WD203>

[4] <http://www.berkeleyside.com/2014/02/24/amid-protests-the-dalai-lama-visits-berkeley/>

[5] <http://dailycaller.com/2017/02/16/chinese-students-protest-as-california-university-refuses-to-tow-communist-party-line/>

[6] <http://ucsdguardian.org/2017/02/07/op-ed-why-i-wont-accept-the-dalai-lama-as-a-commencement-speaker/>

[7] http://shanghaiist.com/2017/02/16/dalai_lama_ucsd_speech.php

[8] <http://chinafocus.us/2017/02/13/why-ucsd-was-wrong-to-select-the-dalai-lama-as-commencement-speaker/>

Voted and Passed at Council Meeting #10, March 13, 2017.

Certified: Tatiana S. Zavodny, 04/03/17.