

## Policy on Institutional Neutrality

*Effective Date: March 7, 2025*

*Administrator: Office of the President*

*Approved by: Board of Trustees*

Free expression is the bedrock of societal learning. Making partisan choices or statements is a fundamental individual right and individuals are not constrained in voicing opinions or exercising rights to free speech and assembly. Institutions of higher education hold a distinct responsibility to remain impartial and uphold freedom of expression. When institutions take sides, they degrade the role of higher education in supporting democratic principles.

Therefore, as an institution of higher education dedicated to sustaining an environment that is inclusive of all individuals and to protect the diversity of viewpoints and free expression, Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) has chosen to be institutionally neutral and shall refrain from establishing institutional positions or making statements on social or political matters not directly related to its educational mission or internal governance. If the president determines, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, a circumstance has arisen that fundamentally affects KGI's mission, the president may authorize the institution to take a public position and issue a statement.

Accordingly, members of KGI's leadership (trustees, the president, the president's cabinet, deans, administrators, program directors, and others in similar positions) and other representative groups (committees, departments, programs, institutionally-recognized groups, etc.) shall not — in their official, institutional, or representative capacities\* — express partisan positions or statements on behalf of the institution or their group. Furthermore, KGI leadership shall not limit the allocation of institutional resources or outreach to one group of students and not others based on a social or political issue affecting their community.

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\* Such Members are free to express their views as individuals, provided they indicate that they are not speaking on behalf of the institution or their representative group.