**Call for an Independent Investigation into the Actions Taken at CSU Fresno to Possibly Cover Up Title IX Violations and Whether There was an Attempt to Protect the Perpetrator and his Supervisor**

1. **RESOLVED**: The Academic Senate of California State University, Fresno call for an immediate and independent, external investigation into the actions taken by former Chancellor Joseph I. Castro and those administrators and staff at CSU Fresno or the CSU Chancellor’s Office while he was President at CSU Fresno, if any, who were compliant, complicit and culpable in mishandling the sexual harassment allegations against Dr. Frank Lamas during the time period of 2014 to 2019; and be it further
2. **RESOLVED:** That the investigation shall determine who knew what and when. In addition, the investigation shall address if any others were compliant, complicit and culpable in the mishandling of the Title IX violations by Dr. Lamas and the subsequent cover up that was first revealed in the *USA Today* investigative report and corroborated by follow-up explanatory letters, interviews and e-mails; and be it further
3. **RESOLVED:** That all persons, if any, found compliant, complicit and culpable in mishandling of the Title IX violations by Dr. Lamas and the subsequent possible cover up on behalf of former Chancellor Castro, if still employed at California State University, Fresno and/or the California State University shall be removed from their positions in the interest of honesty, integrity, and truth. In particular, for the period of 2014 to 2020, persons who held management and staff positions in former President Castro’s cabinet, as well as directors, managers and staff in Human Resources, Student Affairs, University Communications, and Title IX and Clery Compliance shall be the focus of this investigation and possible dismissal; and be it further
4. **RESOLVED:** That all results of this investigation shall be made publicly available as well as being directly distributed to members of the Academic Senate of California State University, Fresno; and be it further
5. **RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of California State University, Fresno call for a period of Truth and Reconciliation hearings during which all persons in the campus community, both direct and indirect victims of the sexual harassment and subsequent mishandling of the allegations, can air their grievances and stories in a healing and nonthreatening forum; and be it further
6. **RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of California State University, Fresno distribute this resolution to

* CSU Board of Trustees,
* CSU acting Chancellor,
* CSU Fresno President
* The Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU),
* The Academic Senates of our 22 sister campuses in California State University system.
* California Faculty Association (CFA),
* California Senate Education Committee,
* California Assembly Higher Education Committee

**RATIONALLE:** *USA Today* published an investigative report on February 3, 2022[[1]](#footnote-1) surrounding the handling of sexual harassment allegations against Frank Lamas, former Vice President for Student Affairs at Fresno State University by then- CSU Fresno President Joseph Castro. Following a statement made by now-Chancellor Castro about the incident on February 4, 2022[[2]](#footnote-2), *USA Today* published a follow-up report February 7, 2022 detailing a year-long effort to prevent the release of reports into sexual misconduct and to pressure those officials gaining access to the reports into signing non-disclosure agreements[[3]](#footnote-3). In addition, Vice President for Finance and Administration Debbie Adishian-Astone in an interview and article[[4]](#footnote-4) and Title IX director Jamie Pontius-Hogan in a follow-up explanatory email[[5]](#footnote-5) corroborated the results of the USA Today investigative articles and the former Chancellor’s letter.

1. Jacoby, K. (2022) [Fresno State president mishandled sexual harassment complaints. Now he leads all 23 Cal State colleges](https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/investigations/2022/02/03/cal-state-chancellor-joseph-castro-mishandled-sexual-harassment-fresno-state-title-ix-frank-lamas/9109414002/). *USA Today* February 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Castro, J. (2022) [An Open Letter from Chancellor Castro to the CSU Community](https://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Office%20of%20Communications%20and%20Public%20Affairs/an_open_letter_from_chancellor_castro_to_the_csu_community.pdf). February 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Jacoby, K. (2022) [Fresno State stonewalled the release of sexual harassment investigation reports, sought NDA](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2022/02/07/fresno-state-stonewalled-release-lamas-records-and-sought-nda/6684902001/?gnt-cfr=1). *USA Today* February 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Adishian-Astone, D. (2022) Fresno State officials react to sexual harassment allegations. *Fresno Bee*, February 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Pontius-Hogan, J. (2022) Email to faculty explaining Title IX, February 23 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)