



Hartnell College Academic Senate

Resolution 1.12: Academic Freedom and the Removal of Ken Rand's Algebra Textbook from the Hartnell College Bookstore

Date: November 8, 2011

Mover/Seconder: Larry Adams/Tony Anderson

Passed: Unanimously

Whereas, the Hartnell Mathematics Department has, from 1988 to the present, approved Ken Rand's textbook (Beginning Algebra: Solving The Mystery) as pedagogically sound and professional without reservation;

Whereas, using his textbook over the last 23 years, Ken Rand has been an outstandingly effective teacher according to every measure: Peer Evaluations, Student Evaluations, and retention rates;

Whereas, it is the recommendation of the ASCCC, with which the Hartnell College Academic Senate emphatically agrees, that "Academic freedom should not be compromised in the choice of textbooks and other course materials unless there is overwhelming evidence that the exercise of academic freedom would clearly interfere with student access and/or student success.";

Whereas, no evidence has been presented that the use of Ken Rand's book interferes with student access and/or student success, while there is, in fact, overwhelming evidence that the use of Rand's book enhances student access and success;

Whereas, it is the newly revised and approved Hartnell College Board Policy (4030) that Academic freedom allows academic employees to seek and present the truth as they know it on problems and issues, subject to the accepted standards of professional responsibility, without fear of interference from administrators, the District Board of Trustees, governmental authorities, or pressure groups;

Whereas, although academic employees have the obligation to ensure that their classroom material meets the valid educational objectives of the course as stated in the approved Course Outline of Record, they are entitled to freedom in the classroom in presenting the subjects they teach and shall be free to select and use textbooks and materials that they deem appropriate to meet the stated learning outcomes for the course;

Whereas, academic employees are entitled to full freedom in their use of books, online sources, and Internet sites and in the publication of the results of any research that may result from the use of these resources;

Resolved that the Hartnell Administration's decision to remove Ken Rand's textbook from the Hartnell College Bookstore constitutes a clear and direct violation of his academic freedom, as well as a clear and direct usurpation of the prerogatives and responsibilities of the Mathematics Department and the Academic Senate to decide academic and professional matters.

Resolved that the Academic Senate urges the Hartnell Administration to expedite the return of Ken Rand's textbook to the Hartnell College Bookstore forthwith, and to refrain in the future from deciding issues of textbook "professionalism" by administrative fiat without consulting either the department concerned or the Academic Senate.