

1 [Urging independent review of Professor Ignacio Chapela's tenure hearing]

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3 **Resolution urging review of University of California at Berkeley's procedures in**  
4 **denying the tenure of Professor Ignacio Chapela in light of his exposure of illegal**  
5 **dumping of GMO crops in Mexico by Monsanto Corporation.**

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7 WHEREAS, It is the role of the University to promote critical thinking and the pursuit of  
8 truth and excellence in the face of undue influence, internal politics and economic pressure  
9 from pharmaceutical and biotechnological corporations; and

10 WHEREAS, We live in a society where our public University's are increasingly forced  
11 to rely on outside funding in order to survive, thereby making them beholden to private and  
12 corporate interests in order to get funding; and

13 WHEREAS, In the case of Professor Ignacio Chapela there are significant and  
14 substantiated allegations, requiring further investigation, that the exposure of illegal dumping  
15 of GMO crops in Mexico by Professor Chapela as well as Professor Chapela's criticisms of  
16 corporate influence, affected the outcome of his tenure hearing and led to his dismissal from  
17 the University; and

18 WHEREAS, Professor Chapela's tenure was supported and voted on overwhelmingly  
19 by thirty-two out of thirty-three of his colleagues and fellow faculty members, and

20 WHEREAS, Professor Chapela's tenure was further recommended on multiple  
21 occasions by the dean of his department and the dean of the College of Natural Resources;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, University Chancellor Robert Berdahl ignored these recommendations  
24 and denied Professor Chapela's tenure based on a negative vote from the budget committee,  
25 and

1           WHEREAS, The University had previously accepted 25 million dollars from biotech  
2 giant Syngenta which had been criticized by Professor Chapela; and

3           WHEREAS, The current allegations of outside influence and politics send a chilling  
4 message to all those scientists and professors who would exercise their free speech and  
5 critical assessment regarding the extreme dangers involved in technological manipulation of  
6 nature and its negative consequences; and

7           WHEREAS, The role of undue influence on the University in the area of environmental  
8 protection, biotechnology policy and the need to protect social critics was at the center of the  
9 California Legislature Hearings held in Sacramento on May 12, 2000; now, therefore be it

10          RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the new Chancellor,  
11 Chancellor Birgeneau, to review the determination of tenure in the case of Professor Chapela  
12 with utmost urgency; and

13          FURTHER, That Chancellor Birgeneau investigate the politics and influences that led  
14 to the previous determination and make his findings public as soon as possible.