Counter-Resolution to the
Resolution of the Academic Council on
Restrictions on Research Funding Sources

Submitted by Phillip Rogaway on February 28, 2005

Whereas, Departments, Colleges, Divisions, Organized Research Units, Campuses, and other units of the University of California have a recognizable identity and reputation, and have a right to make decisions directly impacting that institutional identity and reputation; and

Whereas, The identity and character of our funding sources inherently impacts not only our personal reputation and identity but also our collective reputation and identity; and

Whereas, Many faculty view the values, goals, and behavior of particular funding agents as being abhorrent to the social good, contrary to the UC Davis Principles of Community, or in opposition to the moral values we wish our academic unit to embody; and

Whereas, Contracts to fund a faculty member’s research have never been under the faculty member’s personal control, and inevitably entail terms and conditions (including the decision to enter into the contract at all) that are inherently of a social and political nature; and

Whereas, We live in a social and political context, and an appeal to individual’s rights should not be used as a cover to prohibit collective, ethical decision-making at any level of the university structure; and

Whereas, The July 21, 2004 Resolution of the Academic Council may be seen as an attack on social activism, limiting faculty members’ ability to collectively act based on their ethical beliefs within the organizational groupings most closely aligned to their professional expertise; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That no unit of the university should be barred from considering the ethical implications of receiving money from any particular funding source, nor should any unit of the university be barred from acting on such considerations by refusing to process, accept, or administer a research award, nor should any unit of the university be barred from placing special encumbrances on an award because of ethical considerations associated to the source of that award.