



Guiding Principles on Taking a Public Stance

October 6, 2020

Background

The Ad-Hoc Committee on Social and Policy Engagement forwarded a draft of Guiding Principles on Taking a Public Stance, and the text was reviewed and discussed by the Executive Committee at its November 16th, 2017 meeting. The reviewed draft was discussed at an open meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee during the CIES conference in Mexico City March 25-29 2018. The amended text, was made available to the full membership for a vote and a 30-day comment period. The Society members voted with 81.8% of the vote approving the policy, and their comments assisted in drafting a new version.

On September 3, 2020 the Board of Directors discussed and amended the draft principles. The Board of Directors voted on October 9, 2020 to *accept* the following policy as governing the Society on taking a public stance.

Comparative and International Education Society Guiding Principles on Taking a Public Stance

The Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) was established in 1956 for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. The current CIES constitution recognizes that the purpose of the Society is to contribute to an understanding of education through encouragement and promotion of comparative education and related areas of inquiry and activity. These goals are enacted through (a) promoting teaching and research in comparative and international education in institutions of higher learning in both national and international contexts; (b) fostering application of comparative theories and research in applied settings; (c) facilitating the publication and dissemination of comparative, cross-cultural, interdisciplinary, and international studies contributing to interpretation of developments in the field of education in their broad and interrelated political, economic, and social context; (d) encouraging educational and cultural exchanges; and (e) promoting and fostering understanding of how educational policies and programs can improve social and economic development.

The enactment of these purposes at times requires CIES to take an official, public stance on social and policy issues. This document is intended to specify guiding principles on taking a public stance. A range of situations and issues may prompt the Society to take a public stance.

These include but are not limited to obstacles to the free movement of scholars and students into the United States for academic exchange and barriers to opportunities for scholars and students to work internationally and collaborate with international colleagues. The Society may choose to address issues that affect our members, including policies affecting the exchange of information and equal opportunities to conduct research, study, or teach. Violations and affirmations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant rights, inclusion and international agreements may also prompt the Society to take a public stance.

As a United States-based organization, CIES recognizes a special responsibility to consider U.S. policy and legislation as it affects the advancement of the CIES mission. At the same time, the Society recognizes that a significant percentage of its membership are international members. On occasion, when the Board deems that conditions warrant such a stance, CIES may make statements regarding issues beyond the U.S.

Positions taken by the Society and approved by the Board of Directors should not be taken as representing the positions of individual members of the society.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, CIES does not participate in, intervene in and publish or distribute statements in support of or in opposition to any political campaigns for any candidates for public office. Though not a substantial part of its operations, CIES may occasionally decide to engage in advocacy with respect to a specific legislative proposal that is pending before a legislative body in the United States. In addition to educating its members about pending legislation, CIES may, on occasion, directly encourage its U.S.-based members to influence legislation within the limits for such activities designated by the Internal Revenue Service.

Committees and Special Interest Groups, as well as individual members, are prohibited from taking public stances representing the Society unless such positions have been approved by the Board of Directors. The Ad Hoc Committee on Social & Policy Engagement will draft and/or review public statements and make recommendations to the Board in a timely manner.

All are welcome to forward issues and statements to the Board members or the Social & Policy Engagement Committee chair for consideration, including the following materials: (1) a draft statement, (2) a summary of the issue, and (3) a brief history of any previous, relevant CIES positions or advocacy statements, and a (4) justification of why it is appropriate for CIES to comment on the issue.

Official CIES positions on social and policy issues will be voted upon by a quorum of the Board of Directors, before being made public in the name of the Society. Public statements or actions that are less time sensitive will be referred to the CIES membership for vote. Proposals will carry only if they receive a 2/3 affirmative majority of those who vote. The CIES President and Executive Director may decide to individually or jointly issue social engagement statements in their own name, to be shared with members of the Society.