

**1.6 Even when supported by or affiliated with political, corporate, or religious organizations, the institution has education as its primary purpose and operates as an academic institution with appropriate autonomy.**

*Guideline: The institution has no history of interference in substantive decisions or educational functions by political, religious, corporate or other external bodies outside the institution's own governance arrangements.*

**Evidence:**

Sonoma State University is part of the California State University system, which is a public institution with no affiliation. The [Cornerstones Report](#) Principle 10 states that "The California State University campuses shall have significant autonomy in developing their own missions, identity, and programs, with institutional flexibility in meeting clearly defined system policy goals." Sonoma State University's own policy regarding [loans or gifts](#) to the institution describes various considerations relevant to the acceptance or refusal of proffered gifts, and notes that SSU retains the right to accept or decline all gifts based on applicable state and federal laws, the benefit to the university's constituents, conditions or restrictions attached to the donation, and potential costs associated with the gift.

In its institutional decision making practices, Sonoma State comports with this important principle by preserving its institutional integrity and autonomy from undue influence by external entities. This is demonstrated, for example, by the university's decision to decline donations which have been proffered with conditions attached such as pedagogical or curriculum control.