

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
ON CAMPUS**

WHEREAS, we, the representatives of the University community, are concerned with the strengthening forces outside and inside the University advocating restrictions on freedom of expression; and

WHEREAS, we seek to protect and strengthen the University's reputation in research and intellectual discourse, and as a leader in the principled resolution of divisive issues; and

WHEREAS, we support the principles that enable the University to achieve its full purpose — the freedom to think, speak, teach, and learn; and

WHEREAS, we respect and protect the need of all persons, including members of minority and historically marginalized groups, holders of unpopular viewpoints, and those subject to social injustice, to speak, hear, and be heard; and

WHEREAS, we respect and uphold the importance of civility, diversity, sensitivity, and physical and psychological safety; and

WHEREAS, the historical trend of expanding rights beyond governmental units to other societal realms has only partly reached non-state universities, and in consequence these rights are open to ad-hoc interpretations and applications; and

WHEREAS, we therefore seek to establish principles that must guide rules for University life, as well as the subsequent application and adjudication of such rules by the University; and to establish a reference standard in order to interpret rights, to balance conflicting rights with each other and with other compelling countervailing concerns; and

WHEREAS, such principles should not be established in response to a particular divisive incident but with a wider consideration for the character of our institution; and

WHEREAS, the toleration of non-official communication made on campus by any individual or group does not imply an endorsement by the University and its community; and

WHEREAS, we affirm our commitment to the Statement regarding expressive activity contained in the preamble to the Rules of University Conduct, Section 440; and

WHEREAS, the values of the University and its academic mission include teaching, research, and preparation for a global citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the University includes serving as a forum to debate serious questions of concern to the whole university,

NOW, THEREFORE, we affirm that the First Amendment principles protecting, interpreting, as well as limiting the rights of speech, assembly, and protest, that govern the public sphere and public universities also apply, presumptively, in this University to similar activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to foster vigorous discussions on issues of concern to the University community, including controversial topics, individuals, and events, the University Senate create and appoint a Board, composed of its major constituencies, with a significant representation of students, and with the administrative and financial support of the University, to organize Town Hall meetings to debate such issues; and that the Board consider proposals by any campus group, including those aggrieved by a public speaker or event, in order to organize and conduct such Town Halls to address those issues of concern.

Proponent:

External Relations and Research Policy Committee
Student Affairs Committee