

**Resolution SS0910-09****January 20, 2010**

COMMITTEE ON GENDER ISSUES  
ROBYN GRANT, CO-CHAIRMAN  
PATRICK TIGHE, CO-CHAIRMAN

**A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE REVIEW OF NOTRE DAME'S POLICIES  
REGARDING HOMOSEXUAL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

Whereas, *The Observer* recently published an offensive comic strip that made light of violence toward homosexuals (*Observer*, January 13, 2010), exposing a persistent culture of homophobia and disrespect despite our call as Christians to foster an inclusive campus environment regardless of sexual orientation;

Whereas, The University added its voice to the student uproar following the comic's publication, stating, "The University denounces the implication that violence or expressions of hate toward any person or group of people is acceptable or a matter that should be taken lightly" (Office of the President, January 15, 2010);

Whereas, In light of the comic strip, the University is called to cultivate an environment free of violence, discrimination, and fear and to protect the rights and dignity of every person;

Whereas, *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1994) teaches that homosexual persons "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity," and that "every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided";

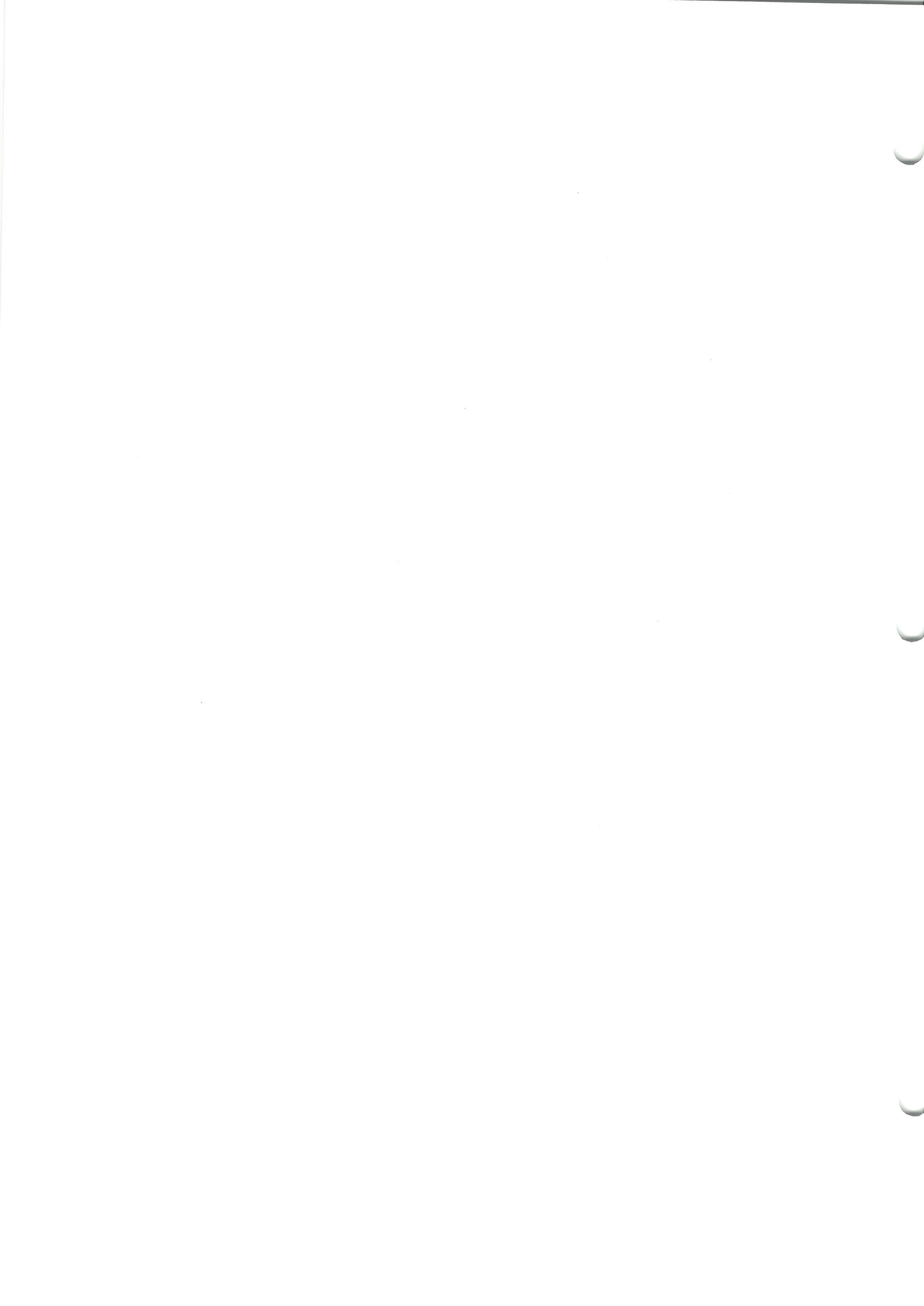
Whereas, Under current policy, the University of Notre Dame reserves the right to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs (duLac);

Whereas, The Student Senate believes that it lies within the interests of the university community to protect its students, faculty, and staff from the aforementioned discrimination, while reserving the right to uphold the entirety of the Catholic teaching on homosexuality (*Catechism*, 2357-2359);

Whereas, "The Spirit of Inclusion," although welcoming all persons into the Notre Dame community, fails to provide legal protection for students, faculty, and staff from discrimination; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Student Senate adamantly denounces any and all forms of discrimination, especially upon the grounds of sexual orientation;

*Resolved* that the Student Senate urges the university to address the addition of sexual orientation in the university's nondiscrimination clause in order to protect the students, faculty,



and staff of the Notre Dame community against the above mentioned discrimination as soon as possible;

*Resolved,* That Student Senate requests that members of Student Affairs, Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students, the Gender Relations Center, and Student Government review and evaluate the University's efforts to implement and fulfill the "Spirit of Inclusion";

*Resolved,* That Student Senate requests that these aforementioned members also investigate granting club status to students requesting to create a Notre Dame, non-administrative, student-run gay-straight alliance club, and reviewing the effectiveness of Notre Dame's CommUnity educational presentations.

