

Resolution SS0910-[25]

March 31, 2010

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

A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE INVESTIGATION OF PROVIDING FREE AND VOLUNTARY INTERNET FILTERING SOFTWARE

Whereas, *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that pornography “does grave injury to the dignity of its participants (actors, vendors, the public), since each one becomes an object of base pleasure and illicit profit for others. It immerses all who are involved in the illusion of a fantasy world. It is a grave offense. Civil authorities should prevent the production and distribution of pornographic materials” (2354);

Whereas, The University of Notre Dame’s *du Lac: A Guide to Student Life* states that impermissible use of computing resources include, but are not limited to the following, “Posting, viewing, printing or sending obscene, pornographic, sexually explicit, or offensive material...Posting, viewing, printing or sending material that is contrary to the mission or values of the University” (178-9);

Whereas, The University of Notre Dame’s mission statement states, “The University prides itself on being an environment of teaching and learning that fosters the development in its students of those disciplined habits of mind, body, and spirit that characterize educated, skilled, and free human beings”;

Whereas, The content of the most popular, mainstream pornography recently has become increasingly violent and degrading. According to a content analysis of the 50 best-selling pornographic videos from December 2004 to June 2005, 89.8% of the scenes included either verbal or physical aggression; 48% contained verbal aggression, mostly name-calling (“bitch” and “slut”) and insults; 82.2% contained physical aggression, mostly spanking (35.7%), gagging (27.7%), and open-hand slapping (14.9%); 94.4% of the aggressive acts were targeted at women; and, 72.7% of the aggressive acts were perpetrated by men¹;

Whereas, The use of pornography can lead to the formation of compulsive, addictive behavior and habits, and such behavior and habits are contrary to the mental, spiritual and moral formation of our students; and,

Whereas, Notre Dame’s Office of Information Technology provides free access and downloading of some computer software for Notre Dame faculty, staff, and students at <https://oit.nd.edu/software/>; therefore, be it

¹ Chyng Sun, “Aggression and Sexual Behavior in Best-Selling Pornography: A Content Analysis.” *International Communication Association* (2006): 1-39,

http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p_mla_apa_research_citation/1/7/0/5/2/pages170523/p170523-1.php

¹ <<https://oit.nd.edu/software/licenseinfo/index.shtml>>

Resolved, That the University, Student Affairs, and the Counseling Center investigate the estimated benefits and costs of providing free and voluntary Internet filtering software for those who desire to prevent their access and exposure to pornographic material as well as the extent that such filtering software might be used by students, faculty, and staff and the type of Internet filtering software that might be best to provide help for students, faculty, and staff;

Resolved, That the University provide students, faculty, and staff with free and voluntary Internet filtering software as an option accessible through OIT's website and the Notre Dame Counseling Center or other organizations such as Men of Strength and the Gender Relations Center; and

Resolved, That Student Senate does not endorse a University-wide and imposed Internet filtering system, as this is contrary to proper moral development and formation. Rather, the Student Senate believes that the University should provide an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to voluntarily use free and easily accessible Internet-filtering software.