

## Resolution Supporting Diversity in Programming and Academic and Intellectual Freedom at Notre Dame

**Recognizing** that *duLac* and similar written documents signed by the university are meant to set guidelines for the future; and

**Recognizing** that the 1970 Land o' Lakes Agreement signed by many prominent Catholic universities and Fr. Hesburgh states that, "The University should endeavor to present a collegiate education that is truly geared to modern society. The student must come to a basic understanding of the actual world in which he lives today. This means that the intellectual campus of a Catholic university has no boundaries and no barriers...The whole world of knowledge and ideas must be open to the student; there must be no outlawed books or subjects. Thus the student will be able to develop his own capabilities and to fulfill himself by using the intellectual resources presented to him"; and

**Recognizing** that the "Open Speaker Policy" from *duLac*, adapted from the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) document on academic freedom, states, "Notre Dame students and student organizations are free to examine and to discuss all questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately. They should exercise this freedom by the use of orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and essential operation of the University. Notre Dame students may invite and hear any person of their own choosing. The routine procedures required by the University before a guest speaker may be invited to appear on campus are designed only to ensure orderly scheduling of facilities, adequate preparation for the event and conduct of the occasion in a manner appropriate to an academic community. Sponsorship of guest speakers does not imply approval or endorsement of the views expressed, either by the sponsoring group or the University," (*DuLac* p.129), and that the AAUP document contains a footnote after this, stating, "The events referred to in this section should be understood to include the full range of student-sponsored activities, such as films, exhibitions, and performances"; and

**Recognizing** that the "Notre Dame Mission Statement" calls all at the University to strive to "provide a forum where through free inquiry and open discussion the various lines of Catholic thought may intersect with all the forms of knowledge found in the arts, sciences, professions and every other area of human scholarship and creativity. What the University asks of all its scholars and students, however, is not a particular creedal affiliation, but a respect for the objectives of Notre Dame and a willingness to enter into the conversation that gives it life and character. Therefore, the University insists upon academic freedom which makes open discussion and inquiry possible . . . The University is committed to constructive and critical engagement with the whole of human culture"; and

**Recognizing** the importance of creating a greater sense of community at Notre Dame through a diverse range of programming which expresses the views held by all students; and

**Recognizing** that events such as the Vagina Monologues and the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival [formerly the Queer Film Festival] are valuable instruments of education and expression, and that the strong student turnout at such events are indicative of their high demand, need, and rightful place at this University; and

**Recognizing** that, as recently expressed by President Emeritus Fr. Hesburgh, "The real test of a great university is that you are fair to the opposition and that you get their point of view out there. You engage them. You want to get students' minds working. You don't want mindless Catholics. You want intelligent, successful Catholics"; and

**Therefore be it resolved** that the University encourage and facilitate a wide-range of programming in order to allow for all students to express their own deeply held views, and to allow for discussion and discourse on issues which would otherwise be ignored or underrepresented; and

**Therefore be it further resolved** that the University never compromise itself by disallowing certain student programming, ~~unless such programming is grossly offensive and serves no discernable educational or intellectual purpose.~~

Even prog. which may disagree or <sup>with</sup> perceive to disagree <sup>with</sup> elements of cam unless such prog. shows no respect for the university's mission or shows no willingness to enter into a academic intellectual conversation.

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Committee:  
14-11

or limiting the frequency from or fundraising activities of

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Does not pass