Sense of the Senate Resolution

January 25, 2017

Whereas in the wake of the 2016 U.S. presidential election, many incidents of harassment, intimidation and violence have been committed in direct or indirect connection with that election (see [The Southern Poverty Law Center’s reporting](https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2016/12/16/update-1094-bias-related-incidents-month-following-election));

Whereas several incidents have been focused around university and college campuses (see reports from [Inside Higher Ed](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/11/11/students-many-colleges-reporting-ethnic-or-racial-harassment-election-day) and [The Chronicle of Higher Education](http://www.chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/heres-a-rundown-of-the-latest-campus-climate-incidents-since-trumps-election/115553)), including several cases at ISU investigated by university and law enforcement officials;

Whereas some statements or behaviors, such as the distribution of fliers at [Texas State University](http://www.dallasnews.com/news/2016-presidential-election/2016/11/10/pro-trump-fliers-call-tar-feather-vigilante-squads-organize-texas-state-university) calling for attacks on “deviant university leaders spouting off all this Diversity Garbage,” seek to dismantle the enterprise of academic inquiry itself and the community-building that makes it possible;

And whereas such actions not only go against the core values of ISU’s educational mission (Pursuit of Learning and Scholarship, Individualized Attention, Diversity, Integrity, and Civic Engagement, as outlined in [*Educating Illinois*](http://educatingillinois.illinoisstate.edu/values/)), but also pose a threat to cultivating a “campus environment that recognizes individual and cultural differences and is strongly committed to the ethical and legal principle that each member of the University community enjoys the constitutional right to free speech,” as outlined in the [Anti-Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy](http://equalopportunity.illinoisstate.edu/policy/harassment/);

At this moment, then, we, the Academic Senate of Illinois State University, find it necessary to strongly reaffirm the values that we all seek to create in and spread through our community: knowledge, inclusivity, empathy, and care.

In response to this climate, the Academic Senate resolves to support continually the well-being of all members of the university community. We resolve to have no tolerance for hate crime. We urge all community members to focus on ways to foster education and discussion of the issues we must debate in order to encourage civic engagement. We resolve to listen and speak with honesty and empathy. We resolve to embody civility without docility. We commit to passionately defending the rights of all to be free from violence. We resolve to practice intellectualism with humanity, remembering always, with W. H. Auden, that “We must love one another or die.” We will honor the privilege of gladly learning and teaching.