



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WHITWORTH COLLEGE

"We, the Associated Students of Whitworth College, strive to act in the best interest of our community while inspiring continual intellectual and spiritual growth"

RESOLUTION 2002-03.01

OCTOBER 16, 2002

PASSED 16-2-0

PREVENTING A CULTURE OF HATE

WHEREAS a culture of hate is defined as one in which individuals or groups are treated or characterized in ways that cause physical and/or psychological harm;

WHEREAS a culture of hate cannot always be defined in terms of the highest forms of prejudice (i.e. assault, murder, and rape) but must also be defined in terms of lower forms of prejudice (i.e. disparaging remarks, disparate treatment, and discrimination);¹

WHEREAS a culture of hate is categorically opposed to the ASWC's commitment to creating a safe community where everyone feels loved, valued, and respected;²

WHEREAS a culture of hate is contrary to the mission and policies of Whitworth College;³

WHEREAS "hating or harassing [. . .] anyone we may dislike or of whose behavior we may disapprove, is categorically forbidden Christians by the Lord of the Gospel and by his apostles";⁴

WHEREAS all human persons have been created in the image of God; and therefore, under no circumstances is it acceptable to dehumanize other persons by robbing them of their inherent dignity and worth;⁵

WHEREAS there is a clear and significant difference between supporting immoral behavior and assuring that all human persons are treated in light of the dignity and worth with which they have been endowed by God;⁶

¹ Language and content suggested by Vince Lemus, member of the Spokane Human Rights Commission.

² ASWC Mission, Vision, and Values ("respected" substituted for "accepted").

³ Whitworth College Student Handbook, pp. 21-23, 43, 52

⁴ Language and content from President Robinson's 1994 summary of the Whitworth College Homosexuality Study Group

⁵ Genesis 1:26-27

WHEREAS colleges and universities are not immune from hate cultures and crimes;⁷

WHEREAS hate-motivated actions are committed, generally speaking, by ordinary citizens;⁸

WHEREAS personal prejudice is the main cause of hate-motivated actions;⁹

WHEREAS it is wise to be proactive in assuring that harmful prejudices, stereotypes, and myths that lead to hate-motivated actions are dismantled before they surface and negatively affect community life;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The ASWC shall:

1. Support all students who choose to attend Whitworth College by informed, fair, and proactive representation without regard to one's race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, age, class, political or theological position, or religious affiliation;
2. Support Whitworth groups or organizations aligned with the mission of the college and the mission of the Associated Students of Whitworth College committed to dismantling harmful prejudices, stereotypes, and myths about a particular group(s) or individuals;
3. Program around issues of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, age, class, political, and theological and religious differences and encourage the participation of student leadership teams, guided by Student Life in the same;
4. Encourage Whitworth College to foster discussion and invite speakers who will offer differing perspectives that will challenge commonly held assumptions regarding race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, age, class, political groups/positions, and theological and religious issues;
5. Make reasonable efforts to ensure that all Whitworth students are safe from hate-motivated actions and ensure that those who choose to commit hate-motivated actions are confronted through appropriate measures;
6. Support and cooperate with, in any way possible, the City of Spokane and other area colleges and universities' efforts to prevent hate-motivated actions.

⁶ Isaiah 58-59; Jeremiah 22:3; Matthew 22:34-10; Galatians 6:10

⁷ U.S. Department of Justice *Community Relations Service Bulletin*, "Hate Crime: The Violence of Intolerance," p. 1

⁸ American Psychological Association: "Hate Crimes Today: An Age Old Foe In Modern Dress."

Available: <http://www.apa.org/pubinfo/hate/>

⁹ "A Policy Maker's Guide to Hate Crimes," p. 20. Available: <http://www.texasnaacp.org/hateguid.htm#exec>