

Faculty Senate Resolution on Academic Freedom  
The University of Virginia's College at Wise

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October, 2015

"Whereas, the Founder of our University, Thomas Jefferson, made the classic statement on Academic Freedom when he wrote: "here we are not afraid to follow the truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error, so long as reason is left to combat it";

and whereas, the free, open, and tolerant expression of all ideas, thoughts, feelings, and opinions is essential to learning, progress, democracy and knowledge;

and whereas, the proper answer to unpopular, controversial or offensive speech is not censorship and prosecution but the refutation of bad ideas by good ideas;

and whereas, such an open, free university atmosphere allows the greatest possible latitude to speak, write, inquire, listen, challenge and learn, develops the mind and intellect;

and whereas, such free discussion and debate of all sides of every issue or topic is continually threatened by political ideologies of all types, religious bigotry, and social and economic pressures;

and whereas, the university is the one institution where such open, diverse, free, and lively discussion may occur, enhancing all other organizations in society;

Therefore, We, The Faculty Senate of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, RESOLVE, That Academic Freedom should be promoted, protected, advanced, and cherished by all levels of the university and college community.