

Resolution 2005-6. Endorsing a Resolution on Academic Freedom Adopted by the Faculty Assembly of The University of North Carolina

The Faculty Council resolves:

The Faculty Council receives and endorses the Resolution on Academic Freedom adopted by the Faculty Assembly at its regular meeting on November 5, 2004, and thanks the Assembly for this important defense of academic freedom.

University of North Carolina Faculty Assembly Resolution on Academic Freedom

Whereas academic freedom is the foundation upon which the mission of discovery and the advancement of knowledge is built, and

Whereas academic freedom can thrive only in an atmosphere where unfettered discussion and open inquiry are encouraged and protected, and

Whereas restrictions from inside or outside the university on the freedom of teaching, research, expression, and publication can actively chill or undermine the advancement of knowledge, and

Whereas, in the recent past, there have been numerous attempts, both locally and nationally, to quell discussion of contentious and important topics in the classroom and beyond, and

Whereas numerous protections for the academic freedom of both students and faculty alike are already substantively built into the codes, missions, and visions of the University of North Carolina system;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the University of North Carolina Faculty Assembly opposes administrative or legislative measures that would deprive faculty of the authority necessary to teach, to do research, to publish in a manner that meets scholarly standards, and to advance knowledge in an open and unencumbered fashion inside and outside the classroom; and

Be it further resolved that the University of North Carolina Faculty Assembly strongly reaffirms its already stated commitment and responsibility to academic freedom for faculty and students alike; and

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Assembly also strongly reaffirms the University of North Carolina Board of Governors' code on academic freedom, which "supports and encourages freedom of inquiry for faculty members and students to the end that they may responsibly pursue these goals through teaching, learning, research, discussion, and publication, free from internal or external restraints that would unreasonably restrict their academic endeavors"; and

Be it further resolved that this University of North Carolina Faculty Assembly calls upon the Office of the President and the Board of Governors to maintain the University of North Carolina system as an open forum where the free expression of ideas is exercised and where diverse views so critical to a quality higher education are expressed in a framework of scholarly inquiry and professional standards.