

RECOGNITION OF FUNDAMENTAL EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Synopsis: Recognition of fundamental responsibilities in the education of students at The Ohio State University.

Members of the General Assembly of Ohio have raised questions regarding the university's commitment to intellectual diversity in its academic pursuits, and its dedication to allowing students the freedom to develop and express independent views on societal and political issues. In response, the Board of Trustees wishes to reconfirm the university's foundational commitment to the values of free speech, open debate, intellectual diversity, and the development of independent decision-making abilities in our students.

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees recognizes that, as a land-grant institution, the university has a deep and abiding responsibility to provide an educational environment that supports students as they learn, grow, and develop; and

WHEREAS it is essential that students have the ability to engage in free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry as part of such an educational environment without intimidation or fear of retaliation; and

WHEREAS, in providing such instruction and support to students, the university faculty is expected to develop students' abilities to make independent and informed conclusions about the important social and political issues facing their communities, consistent with the protections of academic freedom and requirements of academic responsibility; and

WHEREAS these abilities are best honed through a curriculum that provides and values true intellectual diversity, and that further recognizes the value of hearing and understanding different ideas and perspectives in reaching one's individual conclusions about matters of import; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees therefore recognizes that promoting, supporting, and protecting a free and independent inquiry process is central to the university's academic mission, and that the twin values of academic freedom and academic responsibility work in parallel with a willingness to hear, understand, debate, and learn from the differing points of view that arise as part of those discussions; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees holds itself responsible for setting clear, open expectations regarding the fundamental values of the university, and in turn expects faculty, staff, and students to promote a positive culture of academic excellence in alignment with those values:

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees hereby acknowledges that assuring intellectual diversity and promoting open dialogue are fundamental educational responsibilities of the university and its faculty to our students.