

Statement on Tolerance

The Executive Committee of the University Faculty Senate of the State University of New York issues the following statement:

Over the last few weeks, reported incidences of hate speech, intimidating messages, and threats of violence against students and other members of our academic communities have increased across the nation and on our college and university campuses. Hate speech, intimidation, and threats are antithetical to the spirit of higher education, institutions that promote dialogue and the exchange of ideas. Any behavior that threatens the safety and freedom of expression on our campuses and our society at large cannot be tolerated.

The SUNY University Faculty Senate affirms its commitment to develop and cultivate campus climates that support and welcome the diversity of our modern, pluralistic society. As a great public university system, our academic communities support critical inquiry, free expression, and diverse opinions. We depend on the contributions of a diverse community as we face the expanding challenges around us. We advocate a culture that promotes diversity and inclusion in all its forms and we challenge that which silences and menaces members of our community.

Accordingly, we strongly condemn intolerance and hateful expression on our campuses and in our broader communities. We share the publicly expressed sentiments of our faculty and staff leaders, by our campus presidents, and by the leadership of United University Professions that supports the importance of civil, respectful modes of discourse. The State University of New York was founded in the late 1940s on a principle of providing access to those who had been denied opportunities for higher education due to race, ethnicity, or religion. That core principle has not changed; rather, it has expanded to include an enriching variety of individuals and cultures. We reaffirm that principle and call upon all members of the SUNY community to conduct themselves with civility, tolerance, and respect for the diversity of people and ideas.

**Endorsed by the University Faculty Senate
January 21, 2017**