

Resolution on Assaults to Academic Freedom by Extra-Academic Organizations

Whereas Academic Freedom as defined by the AAUP is the furtherance of the “the common good [that] depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition.”¹

Whereas Academic Freedom is essential to the production, dissemination and exchange of knowledge, without which a university cannot endure,

Whereas Academic Freedom is under assault from numerous forces today, including state legislatures and other extra-academic institutions and groups,

Whereas protecting individual members of the academic community from defamation and harassment is essential to preservation of Academic Freedom for all,

Whereas non-academic organizations, in hopes of silencing the expression of views with which they disagree, are increasingly turning to the tactic of blacklisting academics, creating photo galleries of targeted individuals and publishing their contact information to encourage their harassment, and encouraging students to engage in anonymous denunciations of academics to the lists,

Whereas the AAUP has repeatedly denounced such tactics,²

Whereas significant numbers of SU community members have been named on such lists,

Be it resolved that the Senate of Syracuse University decries the blacklisting of our colleagues on extra-academic sites and calls upon all members of the university community to be vigilant in assuring that such lists are never used as negative criteria in hiring, promotion, tenure, awards or any other evaluation or assessment, and that the greatest possible effort is made by the university to support and protect blacklisted individuals

¹ <https://www.aaup.org/report/1940-statement-principles-academic-freedom-and-tenure>

² most recently, <https://www.aaup.org/open-letter-regarding-professor-watchlist>