

TEXAS A&M FACULTY SENATE  
Resolution on Civil Discourse  
June 10, 2019

Whereas, Texas A&M University is a marketplace of ideas, a forum for free speech and discourse on all issues, and the ideal location for welcoming and engaging in difficult dialogues, including religious, cultural, racial, and societal biases;

And, whereas, recently three Texas A&M faculty members have been disparaged and were subjected to hateful, anti-Semitic, and threatening behavior as they advocated for free speech and against hate and anti-Semitism;

And, whereas, these recent events could happen to any Texas A&M faculty member, endangering the free exchange of ideas that is central to higher education, certain groups of faculty including people of color, those identifying as women, GLBTQ or who hold minority or no religious beliefs, are more likely to be targeted by such threatening behaviors;

And, whereas, all faculty, staff and students must be cognizant of and appropriately address controversial issues and manifest the highest levels of professionalism in all discourses;

And, whereas, we are expected to, and will continue to speak in support of the most honest dialogue, we will continue to have such discussions;

And, whereas, Cultural Discourse classes that teach students how to engage in respectful discussions and discourse on difficult topics have recently been incorporated into the Core Curriculum of Texas A&M University;

And, whereas, our faculty are participating in this important effort to expand diversity, inclusion, and cultural discourses on our campus and within our community;

And, whereas, the most recent experience of proposed violence and anti-Semitism on campus is a case-study within our community;

And, whereas, all on campus, students, faculty, and staff, are expected to participate in these dialogues to expand the educational opportunities;

And, whereas, hate, bigotry, dishonesty and unprofessional behavior are incompatible with Aggie core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, responsibility, and selfless service;

Therefore, be it resolved that Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University strongly condemns and will not tolerate dishonest, hateful, bigoted, anti-Semitic, or any discriminatory behavior, by faculty, staff, and students and fully supports those who advocate and practice truthful, fair and civil discourse, both at Texas A&M and throughout their lives.