

Attachment 5
Resolution regarding Academic Freedom

Whereas, "Videos posted Monday by Andrew Breitbart's Big Government website show University of Missouri-Kansas City professor Judy Ancel and Don Giljum, a lecturer from the St. Louis campus, team-teaching a Labor in Politics and Society class."

Whereas, UMKC Provost Gail Hackett and other university administrators carefully examined 18 hours of unedited video of the instructors' classes, and according to Provost Hackett concluded: "It is clear that edited videos posted on the Internet depict statements from the instructors in an inaccurate and distorted manner by taking their statements out of context and reordering the sequence in which those statements were actually made so as to change their meaning."

Read more: <http://www.kansascity.com/2011/04/28/2834408/university-says-internet-video.html#ixzz1LK1UPBW0>

Whereas, academic freedom is connected, in many disciplines, to our ability to present hypothetical cases and problems to students, some of which cases concern positions that are politically and socially controversial,

Whereas, the ability to present controversial hypotheticals is tied directly to the quality of teaching in a number of academic programs at Kansas State University,

Whereas, academic freedom has long been protected by the tenure system and is increasingly vulnerable as tenure is gradually eroded in academia,

Whereas, this kind of tactic -- used against any faculty member, at any level, at any college or university, by anyone with any kind of political agenda -- is a direct, undisguised assault on academic freedom and the protection it is given by the tenure system, and on the quality of education we are able to provide our students because of that academic freedom,

Be it resolved (a) that the Faculty Senate of Kansas State University condemns both the attempt by Breitbart to smear the professional teaching performance of two faculty members at UMKC and the conduct of those students who abetted Breitbart's attempt, (b) that the Faculty Senate of Kansas State University expresses its appreciation for the conduct of administrators at UMKC who appropriately defended their faculty colleagues, (c) that the Faculty Senate of Kansas State University affirms its support of the institutional provisions at Kansas State University that discourage and would penalize students who might misguidedly seek to abet the smearing of faculty at this university, and finally, but not least, (d) that the Faculty Senate of Kansas State University affirms its support of the tenure provision and what it does to guarantee the academic freedom of both tenured and non-tenured faculty at any college or university.

Signed: James R. Hamilton
Professor, Department of Philosophy
May 3, 2011

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James R. Hamilton

Elizabeth Dodd, English
Richard Hoag
Architectural
May 5, 2011

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John Boyd
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Jersey Freeman
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