

R F2016.05

A Resolution Condemning Recent Islamophobic Hate Speech and Supporting Those Targeted By It

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

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Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

Whereas, President Schlissel stated in his Charge to the U-M Community for a Strategic Planning Process on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, “It is central to our mission as an educational institution to ensure that each member of our community has full opportunity to thrive in our environment, for we believe that diversity is key to individual flourishing, educational excellence and the advancement of knowledge”;² and,

Whereas, discriminatory acts against Muslims and other minority identities on campus have been on the rise; and,

Whereas, on Wednesday March 30th, unknown individuals chalked hate speech, with messages including but not limited to “Stop Islam,” “Build the Wall,” and “Stop the Rape of Europe” across the University of Michigan Diag (hereafter the Diag);³ and,

Whereas, LSA SG, along with more than 50 other student organizations, was a signatory on the letter “Uniting Our Campus” in *The Michigan Daily*, which states, “we believe it is imperative to not only voice our solidarity with the Muslim community, but also to firmly oppose any attacks on one’s religion, race or ethnicity. To those who believe in spreading hate: We do not support you. This campus does not support you”;⁴ and,

Whereas, on April 5th, Central Student Government passed AR5-063 which, amongst other things, condemns all persecution against, and mistreatment of, Muslims, immigrants, and others targeted in these events;⁵ and,

Whereas, on April 7th unknown individuals chalked Islamophobic messages on the Diag, including “No Turkey,” “No Qatar,” “No Saudi,” “No Pakistan,” and “No More Muslim Violence”; and,

Whereas, on April 7th, in response to these events, a community organized safe space was created in Haven Hall to support impacted students; and,

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

² <http://diversity.umich.edu/our-commitment/>

³ <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/news/police-called-diag-over-chalk-messages-targeting-islam>

⁴ <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/mic/michigan-color-together-we-stand>

⁵ <https://drive.google.com/a/umich.edu/file/d/0Bz3qOvMHVZEDNVBHeMVGmW5XY1E/view>

Whereas, LSA SG assisted in promoting and funding of the safe space; and,

Whereas, the University has an obligation to ensure that campus is a safe and inclusive space, and all student leaders have an obligation to hold the University accountable to this.

Be it therefore resolved, LSA SG condemns these recent episodes of Islamophobic hate speech and shall promote allyhood and solidarity through its events and actions; and,

Be it further resolved, LSA SG shall reach out to affected students and student organizations for consultation and to coordinate and collaborate on effective measures.