

A Vanderbilt Faculty Senate Resolution Affirming our Guiding Principles

- Whereas, many members in our academic community have felt alienated, offended, and marginalized by recent actions and discourses lacking basic civility or decency;
- Whereas, it is imperative to our mission to affirm our ongoing commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, and to our common values to all of our stakeholders and the larger community;
- Whereas, we, the faculty of Vanderbilt University, wish to communicate to all of our students in a spirit of free inquiry, moral support, and open and respectful discourse;

Be it resolved:

The Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate, as the deliberative and representative body of the Vanderbilt University faculty, affirms our commitments to the following guiding principles:

- 1) That all members of our University community – students, faculty, and staff – must be treated with the justice, respect, and civility that all humans deserve;
- 2) That the diversity of our University is a major strength that helps us learn from and connect with people from different backgrounds;
- 3) That our academic community has an obligation to reach across social, political, and geographical borders to serve the common good through open and respectful discourse;
- 4) That systematic inquiry in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences should play a fundamental role in informing public decision-making;
- 5) That the security, well-being, and education of all our students – while embracing differences, including, but not limited to, ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, ideology, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status – are our guiding responsibilities.

- Resolution Formally Adopted on December 8th, 2016