



A Resolution Concerning Free Speech, Expression and Academic Inquiry at Colorado Mesa University:

WHEREAS universities are central to defending free speech and expression in society; AND

WHEREAS higher education institutions cannot allow erosion of this essential commitment to society by becoming protective incubators of comfort but, instead, must take on exploring the most challenging, complex and provocative ideas and debates in culture today; AND

WHEREAS college campuses across the United States wrestle with issues surrounding free speech, expression and academic inquiry as events deemed offensive to some are canceled, speakers whose utterances are deemed violent are shouted down and comedians who have profound insights about culture and society are threatened, unplugged or have stopped accepting campus invitations; AND

WHEREAS the devolution of free and open discourse in society can have a chilling effect in and outside of the classroom among faculty members, staff and students; AND

WHEREAS a university must establish a culture that rejects ideological homogeneity by welcoming and promoting the free, respectful exchange of ideas in order to fulfill its role and mission; AND

WHEREAS a central purpose of the academy, and of the literary and artistic Canon, is the passage of wisdom and knowledge from one generation to the next; AND

WHEREAS Colorado Mesa University embraces the human imperative of transferring wisdom through time and recognizes the importance of legitimate diversity of thought and opinion in order to effectively refine knowledge by rejecting intellectual echo chambers; AND

WHEREAS dozens of colleges and universities across the United States are adopting the [University of Chicago Foundation Principles for Free Expression and Open Discourse](#) which highlight the imperative of facilitating and protecting the free, open and civil exchange of ideas on a university campus;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES support the University of Chicago Foundation Principles for Free Expression and Open Discourse which offers a useful framework for preserving independent thought and critical inquiry and reaffirms that Colorado Mesa University will not shy away from uncomfortable topics being explored or discussed on campus but, rather, will foster an environment where difficult discussions can take place in order to challenge students and help them grow intellectually.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED ON THIS 14th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020



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