

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DR. WARD CHURCHILL, CENSURING ALL ATTEMPTS BY POLITICAL BODIES TO LIMIT ACADEMIC FREEDOM

(SR05-09)

Submitted by Senator Irvin Peckham

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Whereas democratic systems can flourish *only* in an environment in which all systems of belief are subject to challenge and people can speak openly without fear of repression, and

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the university to sponsor free and open inquiry on all matters, though they be fraught with prejudices, and to create an environment in which people are encouraged to think critically, to suspend belief, and imagine alternative possibilities, to respect diversity and to speak with courage in the face of those who would dictate what people may say and think, and

Whereas the current controversy over Dr. Ward Churchill represents an attempt by political bodies and media representatives to intrude upon this responsibility of the university, to assume the right of censure and to squelch the overarching purpose of higher education to dedicate itself to the tradition of truth rather than the truth of tradition,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Louisiana State University Faculty Senate endorse this resolution in support of Dr. Churchill's right to academic freedom, as befits a tenured faculty member, that any review of his professional conduct be initiated and implemented *only* by the appropriate academic committee and that the review consider *only* those issues which would normally constitute failure of scholarship, service, and pedagogical standards within the university's mission, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Louisiana State University Faculty Senate censure the Colorado House of Representatives and the Governor of Colorado for their attempts to intrude on the academic freedom of a tenured professor, and to dictate limits to any professor's inquiry and right to challenge accepted belief, even in times of war.