

Resolution in Opposition to Racist Incidents Occurring at Iowa State University and in Support of Students Affected by Them

Preamble

In the past few weeks, a number of incidents of racism and white supremacy have occurred on the campus of Iowa State University. These incidents have included the vandalism of the Bean House sign in Geoffroy Hall to read “Beaner” (a racist epithet targeting Latino/a/x peoples); the chalking of campus sidewalks with the phrases “Build the Wall,” “HH (Heil Hitler),” “No Trans Rights,” and others; an advisor posting pictures of himself on social media wearing blackface; the placarding of “13% does 50%” signs around campus with a QR code linking to a white supremacist website; and daily examples of microaggressions, racism, and sexism that students experience on campus from their classmates, faculty, and staff. Students of color, LGBTQIA+ students, and their allies, frustrated with the Administration’s response, were compelled to protest this hostile climate, taking time away from their studies.

Active racism and the passive acceptance of racism doubly harm those victimized by it. Racism has negative mental health, emotional, and cognitive effects on students, faculty, and staff. It impedes the ability of students who have suffered racism as well as the individuals who care about them to be successful in the classroom. Racism has deleterious effects on the myriad personal relationships students have within and outside of Iowa State University. It has harmful effects on campus climate for all who call Iowa State University home.

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, homophobia, religious intolerance, and white supremacy are pervasive and persisting challenges on our campus and in the United States and have resulted in racial violence from Charleston to El Paso, Pittsburgh to San Diego.

Resolution of the Faculty Senate

The Iowa State University Faculty Senate stands opposed to racism, white superiority, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, religious intolerance, and other forms of prejudice and bias. We condemn these things both on and off campus.

We support our students who have been the targets of racism and discrimination.

We support the Constitutional rights of our students to protest.

We support the ideals of diversity and inclusion at our university and welcome all students to learn in an environment free from racism, sexism, bigotry, harassment, and other forms of oppression. While we uphold these ideals ourselves, we strongly encourage our colleagues across the University to do the same. **We** call upon the Administration at Iowa State University to openly and forthrightly examine all claims of racism and bias on our campus, and to work with all members of the community to enact policies that create meaningful progress in addressing racism and bias on our campus in the future. **We** pledge to continue to work for positive, progressive change through Faculty Senate to help Iowa State University achieve the resolutions mentioned herein.