RES 2014-02 Support of Efforts to Raise Consciousness Against Racism

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Resolution to the Academic Senate

Title: Support of Efforts to Raise Consciousness Against Racism
Submitted by: Laura Leming
Date: December 12, 2014

**Addition to the agenda:** The agenda was amended to add the following topic. L. Leming proposed the following statement be added to the minutes of today’s meeting to record a point of appreciation for the students, staff and faculty who have been part of the efforts this week to raise consciousness against racism:

> “The Academic Senate wants to affirm in our minutes the efforts of the students, staff and faculty who over the last week have organized and participated in both the Ferguson Teach-In and the non-violent direct action to address the issue of racism that divides our country and has been seen in events on our campus. These efforts to educate and create opportunities for civil discourse that will help us move forward as a country and as a campus community are welcome, important and appreciated.”

An incident of racism on UD’s campus in response to the silent protest outside of KU and derogatory comments on Yik Yak were also discussed. S. Gallivan proposed that the statement be postponed until January to allow for more discussion and possibly better align with Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. M. Brill stated that it was a good idea, but asked if this sort of statement was within the purview of the Academic Senate. L. Leming said that in her opinion waiting would be a missed opportunity to support these efforts. K. Webb and L. Picca expressed support for the statement. M. Brill stated that the anonymous Yik Yak comments were rude and disrespectful and needed to be dealt with sooner rather than later. M. Gabbe asked why these incidents were not disseminated widely like the safety reports from Public Safety. R. Frasca questioned whether it was necessary or appropriate for the Senate to make a statement on a topic that was not on the agenda and that faculty were not informed about before the meeting. Several senators expressed support for the statement to be made a resolution. L. Leming made a motion to have the Senate adopt the statement as a resolution and E. Hicks seconded. The statement language was modified to reflect a resolution:

> **Resolved, that the Academic Senate affirms the efforts of the students, staff and faculty who over the last week have organized and participated in both the Ferguson Teach-In and the non-violent direct action to address the issue of racism that divides our country and has been seen in events on our campus. These efforts to educate and create opportunities for civil discourse that will help us move forward as a country and as a campus community are welcome, important and appreciated.**

*The resolution passed (23 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions).*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.
Respectfully submitted by E. Hicks