

12-11-1998

DOC 1998-09 The Character of Community at the University of Dayton

University of Dayton. Student Academic Policies Committee

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/senate_docs

Recommended Citation

University of Dayton. Student Academic Policies Committee, "DOC 1998-09 The Character of Community at the University of Dayton" (1998). *Senate Documents*. 89.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/senate_docs/89

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Academic Senate at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Senate Documents by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

TITLE The Character of Community at the University of Dayton

SUBMITTED BY Student Academic Policies Committee of the Academic Senate

DATE December 11, 1998

Indicate the action required: Legislative, Concurrence, or Consultation, and refer to the appropriate reference in the Senate Constitution (Article IIB, 1, 2, 3).

ACTION IS: Consultation REFERENCE IS: Article IIB3

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

This document was developed by Student Development with the help of the Chancellor and others as a statement of community standards. They are seeking consultation and support from the Senate. The document would appear in the *Student Handbook* and be used in student orientation programs. The Student Academic Policies Committee recommends that the Senate support this statement.

THE CHARACTER OF COMMUNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

A Community of Challenge and Support

In the spirit of hospitality characteristic of the Marianist tradition, the University of Dayton welcomes students from different backgrounds and cultures to a learning community. This community, which we hope you experience as a family, provides the most important context for an education that affects you emotionally, spiritually, and interpersonally as well as intellectually — to put it succinctly, as a whole person. This community, to which each of you belongs and contributes, both challenges and supports you in your education. It challenges, because true learning is arduous: it supports by helping you develop your talents, and does so especially when growth is difficult. Optimal learning requires everyone to be responsible members of this educational community. In and through this community, you are called to greater levels of maturity as you assume roles of leadership and service, through which you will diminish your preoccupation with yourself and grow in commitment to the good of others.

The Moral Vision of our Community

The quality of campus and community life depends upon your commitment to certain ways of living in relationships. These relationships include your relationship with yourself, with those with whom you live, and all those with whom you associate. At this University, we support the American traditions of openness and tolerance, of freedom of speech and respect for the individual. Beyond these traditions, our University as Catholic and Marianist has certain distinctive expectations that fashion your day-to-day life as a student into an educational experience in the fullest sense. In the Christian vision, at the heart of life is love of God and neighbor. In the Marianist vision, the virtues of hospitality, service, and leadership guide this academic community.

Thus, at this University, all members of the community are welcome and expected to help create a distinctive atmosphere in which study thrives and friendships flourish so that together we share the joy of work well done. The Catholic and Marianist traditions provide the moral framework within which community is built and sustained. Among the moral principles that characterize this learning community, and which inform its expectations of behavior, are the following:

In Living Together

- Respect for the person and dignity of every member of the community;
- Opposition to all forms of harrassment, stereotyping, bigotry, and hazing;
- Respect for law and authority;
- Abstention from all illegal drugs;
- Abstention from alcohol according to state law, and once of legal age, if you choose to drink, to do so responsibly;
- Respect for the needs of others, namely, for quiet, privacy, and support in pursuing their educational goals;

- Respect for the property of others and of the University;
- Truthfulness in relationships and fairness in all your dealings with others.

In Academics

- Honesty in academics, which precludes cheating, plagiarism, and any misuse of intellectual property;
- Openness to new ideas and respect for tradition;
- Discipline and diligence in studies, and a willingness to think critically;
- Civility in all conversations, and respect for ideas different than your own;
- Openness to correction, a capacity for self-reflection and for silence, both within yourself and with others.

In a Catholic and Marianist University

- Respect for the moral and religious traditions of this university, as well as for those who come from other traditions;
- Recognition of the importance of the spiritual core of persons, and a willingness to explore the mystery of God in yourself and with others;
- Respect for personal convictions sincerely held and expressed by others;
- Respect for your own body and for the bodies of others, and for those seeking to live out a sexual ethic rooted in committed love and, therefore, reserving intercourse for marriage;
- Personal discipline needed for the development of all your talents, and generosity in exercising them in the service of others;
- Commitment to the building of community as essential for developing the skills of learning, leadership, and service.

Growth in a Learning Community

It takes time and effort to grow into these moral principles, which provide the framework for community at the University of Dayton. Gradually, we learn to shift our focus from what we “have to do” to “what is it best for us to do?”, or from asking “why can’t we?” to asking “what good purpose will this serve?”. Attitudes and behaviors that violate these principles tear the fabric of respect that knits this community together. Transgressions against these principles hurt specific members of the community. They make it harder for us to trust each other, and more difficult to be good friends and good students. Ultimately, such failures force all to admit before one another and God that we only partially understand and only imperfectly achieve the learning community to which we are called to contribute. However, transgressions and failures, if recognized as such, may themselves also be occasions for learning and for growth in maturity. What is most important, then, is our willingness to work together to create the distinctive character that belongs to the community at the University of Dayton.