

## **Faculty Council Resolution on Academic Freedom and Responsibility**

**Whereas** DePaul University's Faculty Handbook (6.1) affirms that "DePaul accords academic freedom a prominent position as an integral part of the university's scholarly and religious heritage" and furthermore states that "The university attempts to create an environment in which persons engaged in learning and research exercise this freedom and respect it in others as contributing to the God-given dignity of individual persons and enhancing the academic process." And

**Whereas** the Handbook also affirms the AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom, which states that "When [faculty] speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution."

**Whereas** DePaul University's "Guiding Principles for Speech and Expression" affirm that "We deem free and open expression as essential to intellectual inquiry." As well as the "responsibility to provide a setting in which a broad and diverse range of ideas can be exchanged civilly and respectfully," "to foster a respectful and inclusive learning environment," and "to continuously and actively amplify marginalized voices and to create opportunities for conversations that advance social justice."

**Whereas** the guidelines also "affirm the right of individuals to express their viewpoints, even at the risk of controversy," while also affirming "the right of individuals to choose whether and how to respond to speech and expression" And

**Whereas** DePaul University's Catholic and Vincentian mission includes a commitment to affirming the equal dignity and human rights of all human beings, regardless of ethnic or religious heritage. And

**Whereas** the recent article by Professor Jason Hill, entitled "The Moral Case for Israel Annexing the West Bank – and Beyond" 1) misrepresents the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, 2) distorts the facts about the current state of Israeli-Palestinian relations, 3) promotes racism toward Arabs generally and Palestinians in particular, and 4) advocates for war crimes and ethnic cleansing against the Palestinian populations of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

**That** DePaul University's Faculty Council affirms Professor Hill's right to publish and express his opinions consistent with the Faculty Handbook, the AAUP Statement on Academic Freedom and Tenure, and the Guiding Principles on Speech and Expression.

**That** the Faculty Council nevertheless affirms that Professor Hill's article failed to exercise adequate concern for accuracy, restraint, or respect for the opinions of others, as per the AAUP guidelines. As such, this article represents an abuse of his academic freedom.

**That** Faculty Council condemns in the strongest possible terms both the tone and content of Professor Hill's article, and affirms the claims that it expresses positions that are factually inaccurate, advocate war crimes and ethnic cleansing, and give voice to racism with respect to the Palestinian populations of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as Arabs generally.

**That** Faculty Council urges Professor Hill to seriously reconsider his positions on these issues, to take cognizance of the perspectives of other scholars on these issues, as well as the real harm his words have caused to students and other members of our community, and to refrain from abusing his freedom as a scholar in writing on controversial issues in the future.