

Statement on Free Speech and Diversity

For consideration at the Faculty Senate Meeting, February 5, 2018

WE condemn the hostile, white separatist messages painted on the Rock and distributed in fliers across campus by members of Traditionalist Workers Party, founded by Matthew Heimbach, which espouses white supremacy and advocates for an all-white ethno state, and

WE affirm our commitment to the university's Vol Vision 2020 goal of creating an inclusive and diverse campus, and

WE promote the importance of free speech and academic freedom expressed in the College Free Speech Act while also emphasizing that no speech should target members of our campus community and make them fear for their safety, nor should their access to equal protection under the law be threatened, and

WE encourage all individuals and organizations that are part of the university community to foster an inclusive campus community and organize non-violent activities that work against hate speech, and

WE will use Faculty Senate resources to continue to publicize events that educate the campus and Knoxville community, and that resist the racist activities of the Traditionalist Workers Party, and

WE support efforts by the university administration to prevent the Traditionalist Workers Party from using our campus as a platform for their bigotry.