

To: The University Senate
From: Denise Whitford
Subject: Support of LGBTQ+ Students
Reference: Purdue Graduate Student Government Resolution SP23-R011
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption

Rationale: Purdue University Senate affirms the support expressed for LGBTQ+ students in the resolution approved by Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG), Resolution SP23-R011 “Support of LGBTQ+ Students in Response to Planned Campus Visitor.” The proposed invited campus speaker incites existential harm toward Boilermakers and Indiana citizens.

Proposal: Purdue University’s [nondiscrimination policy statement](#) “prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.” [1] The Purdue University Senate resolves that calling for the eradication of any of these groups reasonably represents an incitement to existential harm. [2]

The Purdue University Senate further recognizes that any person who incites existential harm toward Boilermakers and fellow Hoosiers must not be invited to campus nor supported with Purdue affiliated funds.

The Purdue University Senate recognizes [our university’s free speech policy](#). [3] This policy must not be used to abdicate our role as mentors. Rather, the policy compels responsible mentorship of students by individuals in positions of authority, including administrators at every level, faculty, and staff. Such mentoring is required to prevent the elevation of speech that is outside the bounds of our free speech policy, such as incitement to existential harm.

The Purdue University Senate calls upon all administrators, faculty, staff, and students to exercise their responsibility to oppose and condemn the use of Purdue University as a platform to incite existential harm to our community members and the citizens of Indiana.

Citations:

[1] Nondiscrimination Policy Statement:

https://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.php (Accessed 16 March 2023).

[2] Brandenburg v. Ohio, 395 US 444 (1969) establishes that freedom of speech does not include speech that is “directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action.”

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/395/444> (Accessed 16 March 2023).

[3] Purdue University Commitment to Freedom of Expression:

<https://www.purdue.edu/purdue/about/free-speech.php> (Accessed 16 March 2023).

Appendix: Purdue Graduate Student Government Resolution SP23-R011

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PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

RESOLUTION No. SP23-R011

Support of LGBTQ+ Students in Response to Planned Campus Visitor



Author(s): Daphne Fauber

Sponsor(s): Jacob White; College of Science

WHEREAS, on Thursday, March 23rd, 2023 Michael Knowles of the Daily Wire is an invited guest speaker to present at Purdue University by the Purdue University College Republicans and Young America's Foundation through a Student Organization Grant Allocation grant¹; and

NOTING, On March 4th, 2023 Michael Knowles stated at the Conservative Political Action Conference "for the good of society... transgenderism must be eradicated from public life entirely". Knowles also said the previous week on his show, "I don't know how you could have a genocide of transgender people because genocide refers to genes, it refers to genetics, it refers to biology... And the whole point of transgenderism is that it has nothing to do with biology." He continued by saying, "Nobody's calling to exterminate anybody because the other problem with that statement is that transgender people is not a real ontological category... It's not a legitimate category of being.",² and

WHEREAS, Following a negative reaction to these comments, including LGBTQ+ activists calling the comments "genocidal",³ a protest began by students and faculty at the University at Buffalo where Knowles is scheduled to present.⁴ Similar unrest has begun to take form at Purdue,⁵ where Knowles comments goes against Purdue's stated commitment "to provid[e] an educational and work environment free of discrimination and harassment and... not condone and ...not tolerate discrimination or harassment of any person in the University community."

¹ <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/michael-knowles-at-purdue-tickets-567026821487>

² <https://www.thedailybeast.com/michael-knowles-calls-for-eradication-of-transgender-people-at-conservative-political-action-conference>

³ <https://www.pride.com/politics/daily-wire-michael-knowles-transphobic>

⁴ <https://www.wkbw.com/news/local-news/cpac-speaker-who-said-transgenderism-must-be-eradicated-from-public-life-to-speak-at-ub>

⁵ https://www.reddit.com/r/lafayette/comments/11lwy2c/michael_knowles_speaking_at_purdue_323/

WHEREAS, By enabling Knowles to speak at campus, Purdue University is providing a platform for Knowles to continue to verbally attack and call for violence against transgender and gender non-conforming staff and students, using funds contributed to by those students' tuitions; and

WHEREAS, In 2022 Purdue was named one of the "Best-of-the-Best" universities for LGBTQ+ students, including receiving 4.5/5 stars in LGBTQ+ Support and Institutional Commitment.⁶ To enable those that have made such comments as Knowles to be guests on campus directly stands against this ranking and shows a faltering commitment to LGBTQ+ students and faculty.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That PGSG supports LGBTQ+ and specifically transgender and nonbinary students, faculty, and staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that PGSG condemns Michael Knowles upcoming presence on Purdue's campus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that PGSG sends this resolution to Purdue Student Government (PSG) in lieu SOGA being used to support this event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that PGSG sends this resolution to Student Activities Organization (SAO) in lieu SOGA being used to support this event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that PGSG sends this resolution to James Krotz, the Faculty Advisor for Purdue University College Republicans.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that PGSG sends this resolution to PMU Event Services at the Purdue Memorial Union condemning the use of this space to host the event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PGSG will make a public statement to this effect, with exact wording of the public statement to be at the discretion of the PGSG Executive Board.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 8th day of March 2023.

DocuSigned by:

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President, PGSG

DocuSigned by:

9A293462337E40F...
Senate Chair, PGSS

⁶ <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2022/Q3/purdue-among-2022-best-colleges-for-lgbtq+-students-campus-pride.html>

Certification

I, Mary Brown, Senate Clerk of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was passed as emergency legislation and adopted by the Purdue Graduate Student Senate of Purdue University, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 8th day of March 2023 by the following vote:

AYES (35): Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication - Bryanna Nelson

Animal Sciences - Sarah Innis
Anthropology - Olivia Palepoi
Biochemistry - Steven McKenzie
Botany and Plant Pathology - Ricky Critchfield
Chemical Engineering - Annie Sun
Chemistry - Solita Wilson
Civil Engineering - Agustin Quinones
Communication - Savannah Meier
Comparative Literature - Marisa J. Bryans
Computer Science - Jacob White
Ecological Sciences and Engineering (ESE) - Neha Shakelly
Educational Studies - Stephanie Contreras
Electrical and Computer Engineering - Somosmita Mitra
Engineering Education - Barbara Fagundes
Environmental and Ecological Engineering - Aliya Edhe
Forestry and Natural Resources - Ken Yao Chong
Health Sciences - Sydney Stradtman
History - Secret Permenter
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture - Camila Ulloa Gomez
Hospitality and Tourism Management - Rachel Zhang
Human Development and Family Studies - Amy Loviska
Industrial Engineering - Utkuhan Genc
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBSC) - Antonia Susnjar
Materials Engineering - Daniel Sinclair
Mechanical Engineering - Meghavin Bhatasana
Nuclear Engineering - Stepan Ozerov
Nutrition Science - Julia Choi
Philosophy - Mary Brown
Physics and Astronomy - Shayamal Singh
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) - Lauren Wilbanks
Sociology - Reilly Kincaid
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences - Brooke Rodgers
Statistics - Imon Banerjee
Technology, Leadership, and Innovation - Elizabeth Thompson

NAYS (1): Basic Medical Sciences - Siyuan Sun

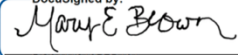
ABSENT (9): Agronomy - Binod Gyawali

Aviation and Transportation Technology - Shantanu Gupta
Curriculum and Instruction - Theodora Amuah
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) - Alaunie Smiley
Food Science - Anaël Kimble
Global Supply Chain Management - Rohan Saini
Languages and Cultures - Santiago Parra Giraldo
Management - Arindam Roy Chowdhury
Political Science - Matthew Ellis

ABSTAINED (11): Agricultural and Biological Engineering - Mike Sserunjogi

Agricultural Economics - Haseeb Daudzai
Biological Sciences - Morgan Chaney
Biomedical Engineering - Michael Zimmerman
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences - Austin Blevins
Economics - Talha Cakir
Engineering Technology - Pragatheiswar Giri
English - Christopher Barber
Industrial and Physical Pharmacy - Pradnya Prakash Bapat
Public Health - Sidney Smith
Veterinary Clinical Sciences - Ojo Oluwabunmi T.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of March
2023.

DocuSigned by:

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Senate Clerk, PGSS