

**Resolution presented to Faculty Senate 12/03/19**

**Faculty Senate Resolution on  
Freedom of Expression and Culture of Civility**

Recent events at Binghamton University and other university campuses underscore the fractured nature of political and social discourse around the world.

We as a faculty are committed to academic freedom and to preserving the integrity of Binghamton University as a place for the free expression and exchange of controversial ideas. While the First Amendment permits offensive speech, we urge all members of our community to consider the consequences of their speech on the people who live, work, and study here. We condemn racism, xenophobia, attacks against religious groups, or against people for their identities. We strongly support the fair and equal treatment of all students and student organizations. We caution that outside groups can create conflict within the University to further their own agendas at the cost of our community. Rather than fall into these traps, we are committed to promoting a culture of civility and respect that will be an example to others. Toward that end, the faculty have a responsibility to facilitate constructive conversations and discussions in classrooms and living communities based on reasoned argument and factual evidence.

The Faculty Senate will also explore opportunities to address controversial issues in the coming year.