

Senate Assembly Resolution on Diversity

[Approved by Senate Assembly on January 22, 2007.]

[Proposed by the Committee for a Multicultural University
and endorsed unanimously by SACUA]

Whereas the University of Michigan is among the leaders in global research, education and service, with numerous educational and service agreements and tens of thousands of graduates beyond the United States;

Whereas the University of Michigan has achieved a nationally recognized stature as defender of the value of diversity in higher education;

Whereas the University of Michigan Senate Assembly believes that the goals of an institution of higher learning should be to generate new knowledge, to convey knowledge to others, and involve its faculty, students, and staff in using this knowledge to address contemporary social problems. Further, for the University to excel in reaching these goals, the rich diversity of contemporary society must be viewed as a resource that needs to be tapped. Not only does the education of students from diverse backgrounds itself address societal problems, but collaborative efforts within the University among persons with diverse experiences and viewpoints can facilitate the development of new ideas in traditional areas of our intellectual enterprise and help us formulate creative solutions to societal problems. Civility in discourse and the generation of mutual empathy among diverse parties are crucial to the effectiveness of this process;

Whereas in order for the University to retain its leadership role within the educational community, it must continue and expand upon its efforts to reach out and include all who comprise our diverse society in order to engage effectively its students, faculty, and staff with the major societal problems of the present and future;

Whereas for diversity to be maintained at the University of Michigan, strong faculty support is required;

Be it resolved that:

The Senate Assembly reaffirms its commitment to the value of diversity and urges that all members of the University -- faculty, students, staff, and administration -- work together to develop new approaches to maintain diversity as a critical component of student education, research and service at the University of Michigan.