

## MEMORANDUM

Title: A Resolution to Affirm the CWA's Commitment to Free Expression

Sponsors: Leslie Durgin, Board Chair; Laurie Leinonen, Program Chair; Lauren Daniels, Student Program Chair; John Griffin, Faculty Director; Steve Bosley, Board Observer

Date: September 18, 2020

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Whereas: Per CU Regent Law Article 1, Part E, Subsection 1 "All members of the university community . . . have a responsibility to protect the university as a forum for the free expression of ideas"; . . . "The free exchange of ideas includes not only the right to speak, but the right to listen"; and . . . "The university community must strictly adhere to the principle of viewpoint neutrality, meaning that the university shall not prohibit or restrict speech based upon either the substantive content of the speech or the message it conveys or because of the reaction or opposition of others to such expression."

Whereas: Subsection 1 goes on to expressly define the university community to include its faculty and students; and the CWA Board further deems its community volunteers to be members of the University community when they participate in the planning and implementation of the CWA;

Whereas: Regent Law 1.E.3 defines "free expression" as encompassing "verbal and written means by which individuals may communicate ideas to others" . . . Free expression "does not include speech or conduct that is not within the First Amendment's protections, including speech or conduct that is a true threat, fraudulent, harassing, obscene, defamatory, or otherwise unlawful";

Whereas: The CWA's 2015 Strategic Plan, affirmed in 2019, articulates one of the operating principles and values of the CWA is "Inclusiveness" such that "We seek, encourage, respect, embrace, and value the ideas and perspectives of all people";

Whereas: The CWA's 2015 Strategic Plan, affirmed in 2019, includes as its 4<sup>th</sup> strategic goal that the CWA "will reflect the diversity of the world in which we live" and a tactic to advance this goal is "ensur[ing] that the CWA promotes diverse points of view";

Therefore: The CWA Board affirms the organization's commitment to upholding the principle of free expression in the planning and execution of its activities, including the recruitment of speakers and their communications at CWA events.

In keeping with the free expression principle, the process by which the CWA's speakers and topics are identified, recruited, and presented by its faculty director and by its student and community volunteers should be designed to incorporate participants who reflect a wide variety of societal viewpoints.

This resolution should be communicated to all members of the CWA community.