

March 7, 2017

Dear members of the University Senate:

On January 31, 2018 the University Senate passed resolution US17/18-o6, "Resolution denouncing White Supremacy and Hate Speech on Campus." While I do not agree with every element of the reasoning or justification for the resolution, I accept the resolution.

As I have stated unequivocally time and time again, the views of White Supremacists, White Nationalist and Neo-Nazi groups are repugnant and are in no way compatible with the values of the University of Oregon. I am proud that our campus can join together in denouncing prejudice, xenophobia and hatred. We have sent strong messages against hateful rhetoric.

As I discussed with the senate, I am committed to building on the work we began two years ago to ensure that we counteract historical racisms and the vestiges of that ugly past in our physical landscape and architecture in order to build a stronger, more inclusive campus community. We have started this by renaming Dunn Hall to Unthank Hall, creating a committee that is actively working to add an educational display at Deady Hall, and, of course, with the opening of Kayapuya Illihi Hall in honor of the Native American tribe that used to occupy this land. To continue this momentum, I will create an ad hoc committee to advise me on the following activities:

1. The additions of plaques that explain the history of the nation and institution at the time artwork was created or buildings named;
2. The creation of new statues or other artwork recognizing people of diverse backgrounds who have contributed to the University of Oregon or the land it occupies;
3. The development of a walking tour guide that allows an individual to see how the campus has altered over time to reflect the changing landscape of the community, state, and nation; and
4. Ways that students can be engaged in classroom projects to participate in items 1-3.

I look forward to working with faculty, staff, and students to move forward with this important work.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Schill  
President and Professor of Law