

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Prefiled Resolution

RS.19.04 Resolution to Protect Faculty from Trolling, Harassment, and Stalking

WHEREAS, “nationally, unfair attacks on scholars have increased, often in social media, on message boards, and through other online forums;”* and

WHEREAS, recent advances in technology and widespread use of social media are creating novel problems of cyberstalking and cyberbullying that are not yet comprehensively or fully addressed by University policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS “these ‘trolling attacks’ can be professionally disruptive and personally difficult;”* and

WHEREAS, a faculty member may feel threatened, uncomfortable, or unsafe if the perpetrator of a trolling, harassment, or stalking attack is allowed to enroll in that faculty member’s class; then

~~BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of the University of Illinois endorses the efficient development of appropriate and comprehensive policies to allow a department to reject an individual student’s enrollment into a class not required for graduation and uniquely taught by a particular faculty member, if that student has displayed a previous history of persistent trolling, harassment, obsession with, or stalking, either electronically or in person, of that particular faculty member.~~

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign endorses the review and strengthening of existing university policies to ensure that no student is allowed to actively disrupt the learning environment of university classes and to protect the security of instructors against persistent trolling, harassment, or stalking by students or university staff, either electronically or in person.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate Executive Committee charge appropriate Senate committees to work together and with responsible campus officials to develop such policies.

Submitted,

Professor Jay Rosenstein
Senator, College of Media

* From “Resources For Scholars Targeted in Trolling Attacks” postcard produced and distributed by the University of Illinois, Urbana

FOR THE DEC 10 SENATE MEETING

Discussion of item RS.19.04 will resume with the motion on the floor to amend item RS.19.04 by replacing all instances of the word “faculty” with the phrase “university employees”.