

RESOLUTION 2009-2010 #: Concerning the Student Government Association's opposition of the creation of new policies restricting the freedom of expression of Towson University students, faculty, or staff.

INTRODUCED ON: October 6, 2009

INTRODUCED BY: Senator Lauren McDade

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

SENATE ACTION:

ENACT UPON APPROVAL.

Jon Graf, President – Student Government Association

Description

Need/Background:

- The Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland (USM) is currently considering implementing a policy affecting the ability of campus community members to use university space to exhibit films for entertainment purposes.
- It is the responsibility of the Student Government Association to defend the ability of campus community members to freely express themselves.

Research:

- Current language being discussed for the system-wide policy includes the provision that if an organization sponsoring a film screening for entertainment purposes fails or refuses to provide an educational program to accompany the screening, the host institution shall take action to do so (See attached language proposals).
 - The three language options include that the organization *may be asked* or *may be required* to design an educational program if the event is purely for entertainment, or if the film has not received a rating from the Motion Picture Association of America.
- The University of Maryland, Baltimore County Student Government Association has passed a resolution opposing the creation of a policy that restricts student speech beyond current law (See attached resolution).

Action:

- The Student Government Association opposes the implementation of any new policies restricting the freedom of expression of students, faculty, or staff that goes beyond the parameters of existing law.