

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF  
WHITMAN COLLEGE  
STUDENT SENATE  
SPRING SEMESTER 2017

IN THE SENATE  
RESOLUTION SRS17.3  
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*A Resolution in Support of the Return of the Whitman College Debate Program*

WHEREAS competitive intercollegiate debate is an activity that fosters intellectual growth among its participants and provides numerous extraordinary academic and personal growth opportunities to the entire Whitman College community; and

WHEREAS the debate external review committee tasked with “conduct[ing] an independent review of culture within national collegiate debate programs in an effort to determine whether it is possible for Whitman to continue to compete in debate in a manner consistent with [the college’s] values and behavioral expectations,” found that “the presence of a strong and viable debate program is consistent with Whitman’s mission” of “develop[ing] capacities to analyze, interpret, criticize, communicate, and engage”<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS the presence of a successful national debate program provides beneficial accolades for both the college and for the students involved in the activity; and

WHEREAS scholarships offered by the school for participation on the debate program have assisted students in affording the cost of attending Whitman College; and

WHEREAS the culture of the previous debate program had facilitated its demise, the possibility of beginning anew provides the opportunity for creating new spaces of welcoming, conscientious, supportive, and engaging students in “a safe and respectful environment”<sup>2</sup>; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC) supports the return of a competitive debate team to Whitman College as per the recommendation of the debate external review committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASWC supports the development of a respectful and healthy culture for the members of the debate program such that all participants are supported in their efforts in “a safe and respectful environment”<sup>3</sup>; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASWC supports the goals of the debate external review committee of focusing on parliamentary debate in the “short-to-medium term... while eventually allowing for the

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<sup>1</sup> Debate External Review Committee, Final Report, 1-2

[http://connect.whitman.edu/s/1673/images/gid2/editor\\_documents/whitman\\_debate\\_final\\_report.pdf?gid=2&pgid=61](http://connect.whitman.edu/s/1673/images/gid2/editor_documents/whitman_debate_final_report.pdf?gid=2&pgid=61).

<sup>2</sup> Kathy Murray, Whitman Debate Update, April 6, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

possibility of supporting multiple forms [of debate]”<sup>4</sup>; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASWC joins President Kathy Murray in thanking the members of the debate external review committee for their work.

Distributed to:

President Kathleen Murray  
Dean of Students Charles Cleveland  
Whitman College Board of Trustees  
Dean of Students' Office  
Provost and Dean of the Faculty Alzada Tipton  
Incoming Dean of Students Daren Mooko  
Chair of the Faculty Melissa Clearfield  
Debate External Review Committee  
Whitman College Faculty  
Whitman *Wire*  
Whitman College Student Body  
Whitman College Archives

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<sup>4</sup> Debate External Review Committee, Final Report, 21  
[http://connect.whitman.edu/s/1673/images/gid2/editor\\_documents/whitman\\_debate\\_final\\_report.pdf?gid=2&pgid=61](http://connect.whitman.edu/s/1673/images/gid2/editor_documents/whitman_debate_final_report.pdf?gid=2&pgid=61).