



ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 7-023

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE U-M REGENTS, PRESIDENT SCHLISSEL, AND U-M ADMINISTRATION TO DEFEND THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR DIVERSE CAMPUS COMMUNITY BY DECLINING THE REQUEST OF RICHARD SPENCER COMING TO SPEAK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, November 21, President Schlissel announced in a letter to the campus community that he will begin negotiations with representatives of Richard Spencer about renting space for Spencer to hold an event on campus.¹ Schlissel stated repeatedly in his letter that “If we cannot assure a reasonably safe setting for the event, we will not allow it to go forward.”² **AND**

WHEREAS, Richard Spencer is the president of the National Policy Institute, a white nationalist think tank that is described by the Southern Poverty Law Center³ as a “active white nationalist hate group.”⁴ whose supporters have been linked to violence⁵ **AND**

WHEREAS, Previous events featuring Richard Spencer have made clear that there is no way to assure the safety of our campus community if Richard Spencer is given a platform because of the violence that has accompanied his appearances; **AND**

WHEREAS, Richard Spencer was a headline speaker at the “Unite the Right” rally on August 12th in Charlottesville, Virginia. On the Friday night before the scheduled Saturday event, a group of 250 white supremacists held a

¹<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/administration/university-will-not-deny-spencer-request-speak-campus>

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<http://president.umich.edu/news-communications/letters-to-the-community/request-by-richard-spencer-to-speak-on-the-u-m-campus/>

³<https://web.archive.org/web/20080417164536/http://www.nola.com/picayunes/t-p/covingtonpicayune/index.ssf?%2Fbase%2Fnews-0%2F1162622544266020.xml&coll=1>

⁴ <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/individual/richard-bertrand-spencer-0>

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<https://www.google.com/url?q=http://news.psu.edu/story/478590/2017/08/22/administration/richard-spencer-not-welcome-speak-penn-state&sa=D&ust=1512535422648000&usg=AFQjCNFexwdQhJGBYU3VRGXPmqt7zX0yTg>

torchlit march through the campus of the University of Virginia, and engaged in violent confrontations with student-counter protesters.⁶ **AND**

WHEREAS, Anti-racist protester Heather Heyer was run-over and murdered by a white nationalist participant in the Unite the Right rally on August 12, 2017, and at least 19 other protesters were injured; **AND**

WHEREAS, In October, directly following Richard Spencer’s speech at the University of Florida, three men who had come to see Richard Spencer speak shouted “Heil Hitler,” gave a Nazi salute while firing a gun into a group of anti-fascist protesters;⁷ **AND**

WHEREAS, President Schlissel states in his letter regarding the University’s “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” plan: “As students and educators at a public university, and as members of society who aspire to lead in the larger world, we have a special obligation to enhance diversity, equity and inclusion and uphold our most cherished values.” **AND**

WHEREAS, The University of Michigan Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion states, “It is central to our mission as an educational institution to ensure that each member of our community has full opportunity to thrive in our environment,” and in order to thrive in our environment, all students must be and feel safe and secure **AND**

WHEREAS, The University of Michigan Counseling and Psychological Service (CAPS) recognizes the negative impact of race-based hate incidents on the mental health and well-being of students, stating on their website: “CAPS strongly speaks out against racism, prejudice, and hate in all forms because it is ultimately destructive to our individual and collective mental health,” and “Every student has a right to feel safe on campus and in their place of residence.”⁸ **AND**

⁶ https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/local/charlottesville-timeline/?utm_term=.478f329cb142

⁷ <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2017/10/20/us/richard-spencer-florida-speech-arrest-shooting/index.html>,

<https://amp.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/oct/20/gainesville-shooting-three-men-charged-florida-richard-spencer>

⁸ <https://caps.umich.edu/article/incidents-race-based-hate>

WHEREAS, For the reasons stated above regarding concern for safety and well-being of students, several Universities have denied Richard Spencer access to their campus, including Michigan State University, Ohio State University, and Penn State University.⁹ He has also been banned from 26 European nations.¹⁰ **AND**

WHEREAS, At least 75 students, faculty and staff representing various organizations spoke out and protested the Regents' decision at their meeting on November 21.¹¹ Many student organizations, faculty as well as the Michigan Daily Editorial Board have submitted letters¹², and almost 6,000 people have signed a petition calling on the University to deny Richard Spencer access to our campus¹³; **AND**

WHEREAS, Several student organizations have held demonstrations calling on the University to prioritize the safety and well-being its students by denying Richard Spencer's request.¹⁴ **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED; Central Student Government stands with the overwhelming sentiment of our campus community in opposing a decision to allow Richard Spencer to speak on campus. **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED; Central Student Government calls on the U-M Regents, President Schlissel, and U-M administration to prioritize the physical, mental, and emotional safety and well-being of our diverse and international campus community by denying Spencer's request.

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<http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2017/08/17/michigan-state-university-denies-white-supremacist-group-visit-campus/577999001/>

<https://www.thelantern.com/2017/10/ohio-state-again-denies-richard-spencers-request-for-campus-space/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/08/22/after-charlottesville-white-nationalist-richard-spencer-is-not-welcome-to-speak-at-penn-state/?utm_term=.b0a26dab2560

¹⁰ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/23/american-white-nationalist-richard-spencer-banned-26-european/>

¹¹ <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/administration/university-will-not-deny-spencer-request-speak-campus>

¹² <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/editorials/daily-no-richard-spencer-speech>

<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/campus-life/students-urge-university-prevent-richard-spencer-speaking>

¹³

https://www.change.org/p/president-mark-schlissel-refuse-richard-spencer-s-request-to-speak-at-the-university-of-michigan/nftexp/ex16/v1/15069072?recruiter=15069072&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=autopublish&utm_term=psf_combo_share_initial.combo_new_control_progress_3smallbutbig&utm_content=ex16%3Av1

¹⁴http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2017/11/university_of_michigan_student_125.html

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Presented to the Assembly for *First Reads* on _____

Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reads* on _____

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abs: _____ Date: _____

Signature Necessary: _____ Signature Received By _____: _____

