

A RESOLUTION FOR THE ADDITION OF THE DEFINITION OF CYBER BULLYING AND HARASSMENT TO THE SPECTRUM HANDBOOK AS WELL AS AN ADDITION TO UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SECTION PPP-44 (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CODE OF ETHICS) SECTION VI PARAGRAPH B DEFINING AND PROHIBITING CYBER BULLYING AND HARASSMENT ACTIVITIES ON UNIVERSITY ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT OR TRANSMISSION PATHWAYS PAID FOR IN PART OR IN WHOLE BY THE STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCESS FEE OR STATE OR FEDERAL MONIES.

Whereas, cyber bullying and harassment is an attack on another using electronic equipment either by computer, advanced telephonic communication such as text messaging or independent cellular instant messaging services such as Blackberry Messenger to post text or images with the intent of harming or embarrassing another and;

Whereas, students at the primary, secondary and post-secondary levels across the nation have taken their own lives as a result of an attack by a perpetrator using advanced communicative technologies to launch assailments and;

Whereas, a recent study conducted by Professor Elizabeth Englander of Bridgewater State College located in Bridgewater, Massachusetts showed that eight percent of students had been the victim of an attack of a harassing nature over instant messaging services alone and an additional three percent admitted to being the perpetrator of an attack of a cyber bullying or harassing nature and;

Whereas, the East Tennessee State University Spectrum Handbook or the Information Technology Code of Ethics do not define nor explicitly prohibit cyber bullying or harassment on University purchased or maintained technological equipment and;

Whereas, such a definition would serve to further educate students as to their rights and responsibilities as members of an academic environment and;

Whereas, a committee has been formed to investigate changes to be made to the Spectrum Student Handbook and the online version of the Handbook will be improved to allow for increased search functions and added to the University Course Catalog;

Whereas, this addition would provide additional protections to students and serve to maintain a safe environment on the campus of East Tennessee State University in accordance with the Students' Bill of Rights which states, "Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the large community. Students should exercise their freedom with responsibility."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE 2010-2011 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

Section 1. The Student Government Association of East Tennessee State University respectfully requests that the Division of Student Affairs and its appointed committees and subordinates add the definition of cyber bullying and harassment to the Spectrum Student Handbook.

Section 2. The Student Government Association of East Tennessee State University respectfully requests that the Division of Student Affairs amend University Policies and Procedures Section PPP-44 (Information Technology Code of Ethics) Section VI Paragraph B to include the prohibition of cyber bullying and harassment and to expressly forbid such activity as a condition of the responsibility of respect for others clause contained therein.

Sponsor:

Senator Dalton Collins

Senator Brian Bowman