In defense of freedom of speech

> Even if the 30-day investigation of Professor Churchill does not result in any action against him, the simple fact that he was formally investigated for his ideas will have a tremendous chilling effect on free speech. In effect, it will silence faculty, who will have to think twice before they consider expressing anything that might bring an investigation upon them as well. ~ Mark Silverstein, Legal Director, ACLU-CO

We, the undersigned 199 faculty of the University of Colorado at Boulder, stand behind the Arts & Sciences Council's *Resolution on Issues of Academic Freedom and Due Process Raised in the Case of Professor Ward Churchill*, which was passed on February 10, 2005 with overwhelming support by elected representatives to the Arts & Sciences Council, the faculty governance body of the College of the Arts & Sciences.

The resolution:

- upholds the principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech as crucial to the fundamental mission of the university: the discovery, critical evaluation, and free dissemination of knowledge both as an intrinsic good in its own right and for the sake of the larger society of which the university is part;
- calls on all officers of the University to uphold their duty to create, foster, and defend an environment in which ideas may be openly exchanged even in the face of widespread doubt, incomprehension, and hostility;
- defends Professor Churchill's right to speak what he believes to be the truth, whether we personally or collectively agree with him or not;
- emphasizes that the investigation of Professor Churchill's scholarly record has been initiated in direct response to criticisms of his ideas and without any prior formal complaint of specific professional or academic misconduct on his part;
- protests the extraordinary ad-hoc 30-day investigation of the work of Professor Churchill as violating the moral principles and the standards of due process enshrined in the Faculty Handbook, the Laws of the Regents, and the very idea of the university itself;
- demands that the investigation of Professor Churchill be stopped immediately.

We are faculty in the College of Architecture & Planning, the College of Arts & Sciences, the Leeds School of Business, the School of Education, the College of Engineering & Applied Science, the School of Journalism & Mass Communication, and the College of Music.

Signed:

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