

***The Central Michigan University Board of Trustees
denounces noose incident and encourages education on the
importance of cultural competency and diversity issues***

WHEREAS, Over the past several weeks and months, campuses across the country have had to address acts of hate and violence directed toward their students and employees; and

WHEREAS, The recent discovery of four nooses in an Engineering and Technology Building classroom demonstrated that Central Michigan University unfortunately is not immune to such reprehensible activities; and

WHEREAS, Nooses have been used to terrorize, intimidate, and harass all people; and

WHEREAS, CMU 2010 – Central Michigan University’s strategic plan – includes providing educational experiences and programs that enhance diversity and a global perspective as one of five priorities; and

WHEREAS, President Rao in December 2006 issued 22 charges to enhance campus diversity at CMU, of which all are being addressed at the highest levels within the organization; and

WHEREAS, This incident demonstrates that educational institutions, such as Central Michigan University, have a responsibility to educate their constituencies regarding hate crimes and bias incidents so as to improve the climate for all students and employees; and

WHEREAS, CMU has committed additional resources to increase the safety of the university community; and


WHEREAS, CMU Police and the FBI, along with the Isabella County Prosecutor’s Office, are fully investigating this incident and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance to that allowed by law and through the CMU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Disciplinary Procedures; and

WHEREAS, This incident goes against Central Michigan University’s plan to expand diversity, but it will not slow its progress or commitment to inclusion and diversity, as evidenced in its diversity charges; Now be it therefore


RESOLVED, That this type of activity and symbol of violence and discrimination will not be tolerated, and the Central Michigan University Board of Trustees joins campus leaders in unequivocally denouncing this recent act and what it represents. The Board of Trustees encourages all members of the university community to use this repugnant occurrence as an opportunity to talk and learn about the importance of inclusion, to continue the university’s mission of raising awareness and educating people everywhere on the importance of cultural competency and diversity issues, to uphold values that embrace all people who come here, to take responsibility for understanding symbols that are considered offensive or intimidating, and to be sensitive to others.

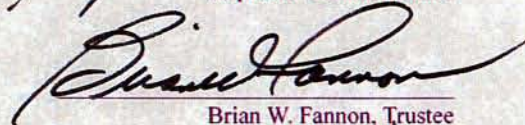
Dated this 6th day of December 2007
at Mount Pleasant, Michigan

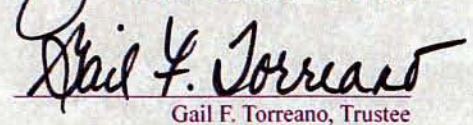

Jeffrey R. Caponigro, Chair

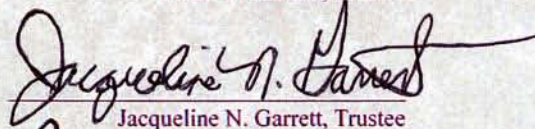

Sam R. Kottamasu, Trustee


Stephanie Comai, Trustee

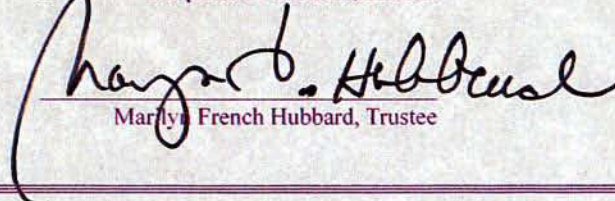

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