**A Faculty Senate Resolution in Support of Freedom of the Press at WCU**

**Whereas *The Western Carolinian*, the student-run newspaper of Western Carolina University, is covered by the same First Amendment right to freedom of the press as professional newspapers.**

**Whereas the advisor of *The Western Carolinian*, therefore, has a constitutional obligation to help ensure this freedom.**

**Whereas the University is likewise obligated to ensure that freedom of speech and freedom of the press are upheld on its campus.**

**Whereas administrative censorship of *The Western Carolinian* constitutes both a violation of the First Amendment as well as a silencing of the civil discourse that should be expected at an institution of higher learning.**

**Whereas, should such issues arise, there exist University sanctioned protocols for handling cases of student journalist misappropriation of source material or other forms of misconduct.**

**Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate supports a resolution upholding First Amendment freedoms for student journalists and their advisors at Western Carolina University and that condemns administrative censorship of the student-run press. Furthermore, to this end, the Faculty Senate supports the Society of Professional Journalists’ Resolution in Support of Free Speech and Free Press of College Journalists and Their Advisors (as it appears below).**

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The Society of Professional Journalists recently concluded their annual convention.  During the 2010 convention this year SPJ delegates passed the following Resolution in Support of Free Speech and Free Press Rights of College Journalists and Their Advisers.

**A RESOLUTION in Support of the Free Speech and Free Press Rights of College Journalists and Their Advisers

Whereas, a free and vibrant press is critical to providing members of the American public with information they need to make decisions important in their lives, and

Whereas, press freedom in America is guaranteed through the free speech and free press provisions of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and

Whereas the press in America includes all students who work as journalists at colleges and universities throughout the country, and

Whereas institutions of higher education have a vital role in promoting civil discourse and should encourage rather than stifle the free flow of information and ideas, and

Whereas institutions of higher learning have a responsibility to cultivate critical thought, robust public debate and an informed citizenry, and

Whereas, some student journalists continue to face threats of censorship from administrators, government officials and others, and

Whereas, some advisers to student news media organizations at colleges and universities have been threatened, fired, suspended or otherwise punished for supporting the First Amendment rights of their students, and

Whereas the Academy should encourage diversity of thought rather than deter it,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Society of Professional Journalists, in convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nev., for its 101st celebration of journalism urges administrators at institutions of higher education, public and private alike, to: refrain from censoring student journalists; to actively defend the First Amendment rights of students journalists; and to support advisers who fight for student journalists' freedoms.**