

To the University of Utah Campus Community,

Over the past month, our campus has seen a rise in hurtful and divisive rhetoric. We at ASUU have received many questions, comments, and concerns regarding the safety of transgender, Muslim, and Jewish students on campus, the ability of Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) to freely express their viewpoints, and how we will address these topics moving forward. We want you to know that we hear your concerns and acknowledge that recent events have impacted our student body in unique, emotional, and personal ways.

To be clear, we strongly disapprove of any messaging intended to make students feel like they don't belong on our campus. As student government, we believe that a successful campus experience is directly linked with diversity, safety, and inclusivity. As ASUU, we denounce all anti-trans, anti-Islamic, or anti-Semitic rhetoric and we reaffirm that this campus belongs to all students, regardless of their identity or background. We have shared our position with University Administration and will continue to advocate for the freedom and protection of students' identities moving forward.

In the meantime, we call upon students to be more considerate of how their words might harm or impact others. Students at the University of Utah differ in important ways, and respecting these differences in identity, background, and ideology is imperative. As such, we seek to protect the diversity in perspective that our coalescing identities bring to our campus.

We want to underscore the potential danger associated with calling for the dissolution of a student's or organization's right to free speech. Doing so, regardless of how much we may disagree with a statement, endangers our own rights to speak out, advocate for our perspectives and identities, and call for changes we find important. We support the rights of all students to share their experiences and perspectives under the protection of the First Amendment and while we urge students to continue speaking out on topics they find important. We also urge students to exercise judgement, leave room for dialogue, and stress the importance of keeping doors open.

Moving forward we hope students continue to channel their feelings of frustration without malice or bitterness. We implore students to remove contempt from our interactions with those who act, identify, or think differently than we do. We ask all students to think about their rhetoric think about the impact of our words, and we encourage students to make decisions with open minds and civility.

Signed,

Your ASUU Presidency