

*Statement passed unanimously by the Progressive Faculty Network of the University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill, September 23, 2001.*

The Progressive Faculty Network joins other members of the UNC Chapel Hill community in mourning for those who died in the terrible tragedies that have occurred in New York City, Washington DC, and elsewhere over the last several days, and offer our deepest sympathy to those who lost family members and friends as a result of these tragedies.

This is a time of great sadness, anger, confusion, and anxiety, and there is the strong possibility that it will remain so for several weeks or months to come in the aftermath of these tragedies. At such a time, we hear with deep regret that some persons have attacked others living in our communities whom they consider "foreign" by reason of their religion, perceived race, national origin, or citizenship with hateful speech, vandalism, intimidation, and even physical violence, and whom they unjustly blame for these tragedies.

The Progressive Faculty declares that hateful speech, vandalism, intimidation, and physical violence have no place in our University community, which is dedicated to the values of tolerance, peaceful expression, free inquiry and social justice. Those who engage in such actions attack these values fundamental to the University, and diminish the community of reason we celebrate in the University's credo, "Light and Liberty."

Moreover, since September 11, threats have been directed against members of the University community, including the Progressive Faculty Network. Hateful speech, vandalism, intimidation, or physical violence directed against persons who hold or publicize different opinions from those of the majority or the media are also abhorrent to us, and have no place at the University.

Finally, we also condemn such attacks when they occur in communities beyond the University. They have no place in a free society.