PROMOTING FACULTY LEADERSHIP IN CIVILITY ISSUES
IN THE UNIVERSITY

The Virginia Tech tragedy and several events on the MSU campus have tended to shatter our individual and collective sense of well-being, purpose, and security in the University community. President Simon proposes that “as an inclusive, connected university, taking care of each other and taking responsibility for the character of our collective experience is part of our mandate.” Since faculty are absolutely essential in the creation and maintenance of the campus environment, we are proposing that we collectively take steps to exert our leadership in maintaining community and our values as we struggle to defend against those who would disrupt our community with acts of senseless violence and/or hatred.

We are suggesting that the Faculty Council consider the following two Motions in support of our efforts to promote civility in our community:

MOTION #1: That the Faculty Council resolves to support and formally endorse the efforts of the “I Stop Hate: MSU United” initiative to foster a more inclusive environment on campus and to promote better understanding of diverse viewpoints.

[Eric Hinojosa will be providing more detailed information on the above initiative.]

MOTION #2: That in order to promote faculty involvement in finding ways to educate the MSU community in how to create and maintain an inclusive environment of civility on campus and how to reach out to individuals having symptoms suggesting trouble, we create a Faculty Council Civility Task Force to begin discussions on this matter over the summer and to report back to the Faculty Council on their findings and recommendations at the first Faculty Council meeting of the Fall 2007 Semester. This Civility Task force should be composed of at least three Faculty Council members who volunteer for this important work.

The above motion is an attempt for faculty members to join with the efforts of students and staff members in promoting and maintaining civility in the way we deal with each other in the MSU community. The Civility Task Force would be studying the appropriate role of faculty in prevention and management of problems which may occur and developing possible ways in which faculty could be involved in the continuing education of the MSU community on civility issues of importance to the community.