

DePauw Student Government

Resolution No. 3

*A resolution supporting the implementation of a multicultural competency component to DePauw's
Liberal Arts education.*

WHEREAS, a multicultural competency will ensure a specific skill set, measured and defined by faculty-led committees with at least two current DePauw students, that will allow students the ability to interact with and learn from different perspectives in relation to their own positions of power and privilege.

WHEREAS, students will develop a grounded framework allowing for effective communication with individuals of different cultures and backgrounds and develop understandings of differences and inequalities pertaining to race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, power, and/or privilege.

WHEREAS, students will acquire the ability to reflect upon their own views and experiences with the information gained through their curricula which will promote an empathetic and culturally sensitive atmosphere for all students.

WHEREAS, this competency will allow for a competitive advantage among other applicants on national fellowships, off-campus study programs, and future careers by demonstrating students' ability to interact with and learn from different perspectives in relation to their own positions of power and privilege.

WHEREAS, this competency will allow credit for extended studies that focus on race, class, gender, sexuality, power, and/or privilege.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

that the Student Body of DePauw University values the importance of developing a multicultural competency.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

that students are continually included in the process of creating the Multicultural competency by serving on the related faculty-led committees, that students receive timely updates from faculty/administration in order to be transparent about the progress of creating a Multicultural competency, and that students have avenues in which they may voice their concerns, feedback, and ideas relating to the intricacies and requirements expected from students in regards to a Multicultural competency.

Authored by: Ryan Pranger '15, Dakota Watson '15,
Sandy Tran '14, Olivia Flores '14, Walker Chance '14
Meeting.

Presented at Joint Senate and
Representatives

Motioned by: Aashly Pratt
Senator:

Seconded by: Anna Katen Pranger
Representative:

Aye: 10

Aye: 7

Nay: 7

Nay: 1

Abstain: 2

Abstain: 0

Walker Chance
President, DePauw Student Government

Attest:

Colleen Mordale

Addendum:

In order to allow the majority of students to understand the reasoning of this resolution we must highlight the positive impacts of developing a multicultural competency.

The DePauw experience provides for more than a world-class education, it provides the tools and ability to question, to think critically, to grow intellectually, but most importantly, to understand the world. “By leaving the shelter of familiar circumstances, students broaden their intellectual horizons and develop greater self-reliance. With an understanding of other cultures, students become dramatically more aware of the need to search for shared solutions to the problems confronting humankind” (DePauw Website on Study Abroad). If this competency was completed during an extended studies experience, for example, a student would have a greater sense of self-reflection following a classroom environment focused on race, class, gender, sexuality, power, and/or privilege.

It is also critical to note that these issues are directly related to our campus atmosphere. More than 1/3 of the student population has a multicultural and/or international background. Yet this issue is much greater than ethnicity alone. Diversity of class, gender, race, sexuality, and ethnicity at DePauw have become a reality locally at our university, but also globally. Recent research suggests that in the near future, the majority of the population in the United States will be multiethnic. Combine with the rapid results of globalization, our world and our university reflect a need for students equipped with the knowledge, skills, and desire to embrace this development. As such, it is vital that our community affirms the importance of being “literate” in matters of diversity through a multicultural competency that prepares students for life at our diverse university, as well as life outside beyond our campus. Ultimately, a multicultural competency highlights the ability to navigate and embrace diversity as a necessary skill that DePauw graduates should possess upon graduation from our liberal arts institution.

