WHEREAS, the Staff Council constitution states that purpose of council is to represent the concerns of staff and to provide a forum for staff to voice those concerns.

WHEREAS, the Staff Council constitution states that council purpose is to preserve the Catholic, Vincentian, and urban nature of the university community by being sensitive to and caring for the needs of each other and those we serve.

WHEREAS, the Staff Council Bylaws state that Staff Council’s responsibility is to actively preserve and foster the personism intrinsic to the mission of the university by manifesting an ongoing sensitivity to all staff, faculty, students, and administrators and to assist, in any way possible, in promoting the mission of the university.

WHEREAS, the Staff Council bylaws state that Staff Council’s responsibility is to become informed and demonstrate vigilance on current university issues, especially those relating to staff. Relay appropriate information to associates, solicit input, and feedback from colleagues, and share knowledge with the appropriate members of council.

WHEREAS, DePaul University’s “Guiding Principles for Speech and Expression” affirm that “We deem free and open expression as essential to intellectual inquiry.” As well as the “responsibility to provide a setting in which a broad and diverse range of ideas can be exchanged civilly and respectfully,” “to foster a respectful and inclusive learning environment,” and “to continuously and actively amplify marginalized voices and to create opportunities for conversations that advance social justice.”

WHEREAS, the guidelines also “affirm the right of individuals to express their viewpoints, even at the risk of controversy,” while also affirming “the right of individuals to choose whether and how to respond to speech and expression”.

WHEREAS, DePaul University’s Catholic and Vincentian mission includes a commitment to affirming the equal dignity and human rights of all human beings, regardless of ethnic or religious heritage.

WHEREAS, the recent article by Professor Jason Hill, entitled “The Moral Case for Israel Annexing the West Bank – and Beyond” 1) misrepresents the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, 2) distorts the facts about the current state of Israeli-Palestinian relations, 3) promotes racism toward Arabs generally and Palestinians in particular, and 4) advocates for war crimes and ethnic cleansing against the Palestinian populations of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Staff Council supports the Faculty Council’s affirmation that Professor Hill has a right to publish and express his opinions consistent with the Faculty Handbook, the AAUP Statement on Academic Freedom and Tenure, and the Guiding Principles on Speech and Expression.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Staff Council condemns in the strongest possible terms both the tone and content of Professor Hill’s article, and supports Faculty Council’s affirmation that Professor Hill’s article expresses positions that are factually inaccurate, advocates war crimes and ethnic cleansing, and gives voice to racism with respect to the Palestinian populations of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as Arabs generally.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Staff Council urges all members of the university community- faculty, staff, and students- to uphold DePaul’s mission to preserve personalism and demonstrate God-given dignity to all in our community.

FINALLY, Staff Council supports the creation of a diverse and welcoming community for all staff as well as all members of DePaul University.

GIVEN IN CHICAGO, Wednesday the twenty-second of May in the year of Our Lord 2019 in the 120th year of the university’s history.

Prepared by Ms. Erin Berkowitz: May 20, 2019
DePaul Staff Council: May 22, 2019