



## Washington State Legislature

September 14, 2017

Kirk Schulz, President  
Washington State University  
PO Box 641048  
Pullman, WA 99164

RE: WSU should respond to hate speech and actions by revoking WSU College Republicans' recognition, and receipt of state benefits as a Registered Student Organization (RSO)

Dear President Schulz,

Thank you for your public statements concerning WSU's commitment to diversity and that "hate has no place at WSU." We were heartened by your statement in May, prior to the Charlottesville, VA murder, and your statements in the aftermath of a prominent role played there by a student who had been President of the WSU College Republicans:

*"The attitudes, the behavior, and the language expressed in the video are not acceptable. Individuals with those beliefs are not welcome in our community."*

We understand that WSU is working on significant diversity and training programs, and applaud these efforts. We want to provide you with the support needed to ensure their success, which requires that they be interwoven into all orientations and student support programs.

However, hateful beliefs were not only allowed a full voice on campus, creating a hostile climate for many students and staff, they were amplified by having a WSU and state sanctioned platform. **These views continue to be provided that platform via official sanction of the WSU College Republicans as a "Registered Student Organization."**

How can students or state employees at WSU trust that hate beliefs "are not welcome in our community," when WSU continues to provide an official sanction for the platform from which hate was spread?

We urge you to withdraw official recognition and support for this organization until actions have reversed the climate and harm caused by this RSO.

WSU should develop clear standards ensuring that Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) do not contribute to a hostile climate for any other group of students or employees at WSU. These may draw from the readily available standards for workplace climate.

We believe that a climate of fear and distrust sowed from recent events was increased by the official State and WSU sanction of hate speech and action provided by granting the WSU College Republicans status as a Registered Student Organization. This recognition and status provided state supported benefits to, the WSU College Republicans. These statements were not

just made in far-away Charlottesville, VA. There is a record of hate speech and organizing using the platform provided by WSU though sanctioning the College Republicans for the past year.

Only if clear action is belatedly taken to remove the official recognition of the WSU College Republicans will many students see that the University is truly not tolerating and encouraging hate speech. The student body saw hate speech and actions using a platform provided by the University without action even after national news and social media highlighted the role of the WSU outgoing College Republicans' President and their successor.

We believe that WSU, and our higher education community as a whole, needs clear action to let students and the state know that hate, racism, sexism, and anti-Semitism will not proceed on campus with Washington State University's official sanction. It is no longer enough to say we "decry" these views and hope to have training programs. As the media has reported and documented, an officially sanctioned club at WSU fomented and supported hateful rhetoric and action that are antithetical to the values of a public institution (see end notes for documentation).

This is not a question of free speech on campus. The students are free to voice their views with the same access to campus as anyone else. Speech becomes action when people are injured and when other hostile actions are encouraged. Groups which disparage participation of other students and create a hostile environment for everyone to succeed in pursuit of their education should not be given access to WSU and state sponsored benefits as a RSO.

This is not about taking action regarding a single student. It is about removing state support and approval from a club which openly espoused these values and sought to make statements and actions which would be "triggering" to others, which are [documented](#) extensively.<sup>1</sup>

Racial hostility is not a new topic for WSU. In order to support all students, WSU needs to take steps to address institutional racism and hostility felt by minority students or staff.

Students and state employees must be able to study and work in an environment that welcomes, not one where they are exposed to hate speech and potential threats based on the color of their skin, religion, gender, sexual preference or gender identity – particularly if the state institution provides sanction for that hate. We urge you to end the recognition of the WSU College Republicans, develop clear criteria for when the University will sanction and when it will not offer sanction to student clubs, and only reinstate this club when those conditions are met and the fear created by their actions is overcome.

Sincerely,



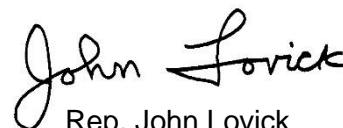
Rep. Gerry Pollet  
46th District



Rep. Cindy Ryu  
32<sup>nd</sup> District



Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos  
37<sup>th</sup> District



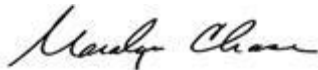
Rep. John Lovick  
44<sup>th</sup> District



Sen. Kevin Ranker  
40<sup>th</sup> District



Rep. Sherry Appleton  
23<sup>rd</sup> District



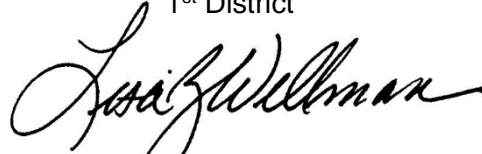
Sen. Maralyn Chase  
32<sup>nd</sup> District



Rep. Mike Sells  
38<sup>th</sup> District



Rep. Derek Stanford  
1<sup>st</sup> District



Sen. Lisa Wellman  
41<sup>st</sup> District



Rep. Lilian Ortiz-~~Self~~  
21<sup>st</sup> District



Rep. Beth Doglio  
22<sup>nd</sup> District

CC: Colleen Kerr, Chris Mulick  
WSU Board of Regents  
ASWSU

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<sup>i</sup> Documentation of WSU College Republicans' abuse of Registered Student Organization status to foment a hostile climate for racial and religious minorities on campus and other End Notes:

<sup>i</sup> James Allsup boasted that he was asked to speak at the Nazi rally, which was the result of his views being aired as President of the WSU College Republicans Long before the Charlottesville Nazi rally, these views and organizing were given a sanctioned platform on campus. This apparently continued with a new President of the WSU College Republicans, as reported by [The Spokesman Review, August 15, 2017](http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/aug/15/2017-08-15-wsu-college-republican-president-radicalize/): "Late Friday night Washington State University's new College Republican president Amir Rezamand railed against critics of the alt-right and seemed to threaten violence in a Facebook post." Quote from caption of photo:  
<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/aug/14/former-wsu-college-republican-president-radicalize/#/0>

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As reported by The Stranger, August 15, 2017: “Triggering” intention from Daily Evergreen, August 14, 2017: <https://dailyevergreen.com/12604/news/former-college-republican-comes-forward-as-president-resigns/>.

“After [writing about Allsup's outing](#), about a dozen people claiming to have been his classmates forwarded *The Stranger* screenshots from the WSU's student's personal Facebook page, in which Allsup makes sexist, anti-Semitic, and transphobic comments. On February 12, Allsup posted a photo of himself in a green jumpsuit with a hat that reads "BORDER PATROL" to his Facebook.

<sup>i</sup> One example of climate is from this incident:

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2005/mar/03/basketball-players-cleared-of-harassment/>