

Central Connecticut State University

UNIVERSITY SENATE ACTION

Senate Motion Number FS 10.11.005R

TO: President Jack Miller

FROM: President of the University Senate

1. The attached resolution of the University Senate, dealing with: **End Harassment of Community Artists** is presented to you for your consideration.
2. This resolution was adopted by the University Senate on **4/11/2011**.
3. After considering this resolution, please indicate your action on this form, and return it together with the original copy to the President of the University Senate.
4. Under the By-Laws of the University Senate, Section 3.8, the following schedule of action is to be observed.
 - a) By **4/18/2011**, Senate action reported to the President of the University. (Within five school days of the session in which they are adopted).
 - b) By **4/27/2011**, the President of the University to return the motion to the President of the Senate. (Within ten school days of its receipt).

4/13/2011

Date

BB for CB
Candace Barrington, President, University Senate

ENDORSEMENT:

TO: President of the University Senate

FROM: President Jack Miller

1. Motion Approved : _____
2. Motion Disapproved: _____ (Explanatory statement must be appended).
3. Action "is deferred": _____
4. Resolution Noted: ✓ _____
5. Other: _____

5/2/11
Date

John Miller
President Jack Miller

END HARASSMENT OF COMMUNITY ARTISTS

The New Britain International Mural Slam is an event organized by the CCSU Mural Painting class and the Art Club. It brings together muralists, graffiti writers, students, faculty and community artists in a daylong celebration of art. Last October 16, we held our most recent slam – a festive, educational and entertaining event for the campus and surrounding communities.

Unfortunately, not everyone was celebrating our community. A female undercover officer, from the Hartford Police Department Major Crimes Unit, posed as a reporter from the Hartford Advocate, possibly accompanied by a male officer posing as a photographer. While covert, the female officer interviewed a number of local graffiti artists, at least one of whom she later followed to his automobile, photographed his license plates and traced his identity. Approximately two weeks later, he was called in to the police headquarters, interrogated and threatened with serious charges if he did not snitch on his fellow graffiti writers.

This incident took place while the university was promoting community engagement and with administrative assurance of minimal police presence and no victimization of artists. The following is a statement from one of the participants, which gives a sense of how the artists feel about this betrayal:

"My name is (Name Deleted) I am a student at Central Connecticut State University. I have been painting in the CCSU mural slam every year since the first one. I have painting murals for eleven years without a problem. The most recent jam which was in Oct. I was approached by a "reporter" which wasn't really a reporter at all it was an undercover Hartford major crime unit police officer. I found this out after one of the artist; my good friend was called in to the Hartford police department and interrogated for about forty-five minutes about artist that where at the jam. My name was brought up at the interrogation and I am not comfortable with this at all I paid money to go paint at a positive legal art event that is supposed to bring a positive light to the street art, and mural painting and I feel like we where set up to get in trouble. I don't understand why central and its affiliates would allow this happen?"

This undercover operation is violation of academic freedom and the trust that we have extended to community artists. Such duplicitous dirty tricks do not belong on a college campus.

To understand what a disgraceful betrayal this is, listen to the voices of some of the artists from a past slam at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4E4O9inKf4&feature=related>

With that in mind, we demand

- That the administration go on record in support of the mural program, the slams and our right to function and freely express ourselves and implement curriculum without harassment from the police.

Approved by:
CCSU Profs4Progress
CCSU Art Department
CCSU AAUP