

# RESOLUTION

## Communicating Arts Department

### TO THE PROMETHEAN EDITORIAL STAFF

**WHEREAS**, the Promethean student newspaper, published an openly satirical April Fool's edition on April 1, 2016; and,

**WHEREAS**, immediately before the edition was released on campus, the Promethean's Editor-in-Chief, sent a statement explaining the edition's purpose to: Chancellor, University Relations, Student Organization Advisors, Student Organizations, Yellowjacket Athletics, Harry Anderson, Susan Stanich, Daniel Fanning, Danielle Keading; and,

**WHEREAS**, said statement was also published in the April 7 edition of the Promethean, titled *Vous Avez Fait un Succès de Scandale*; and,

**WHEREAS**, said statement is an explicit explanation for the satirical content, including the following:

*It is in this vain [sic] that we have added our voice to the reporting industry's theatre of the absurd, but rather than join them, we've created our own counter brand, to point out the cruel nature of what is happening in this country.*

*While some of our stories were based truly on fun, such as our Layout Editor, Mark, being found in a dungeon, or football returning to UWS, others were written to draw your attention to something larger, to get you to think about what you were reading. Did you get mad reading about Selfies with Christians? Did you get mad reading about students being outsourced? If you did, good. You should be angry.*

*Before you write us hate mail or come chat with us in our office, take a moment to educate yourself. Learn about the real Selfies with Muslims campaign, learn why it is so important to so many. Learn about the true costs of outsourcing and the cost of having private companies being involved in public education. And most importantly, learn how to read and watch the news, learn how to see through political pundits and become an informed citizen.*

*Some might say what we have published is an abuse of the First Amendment. They might be right. Our abuse though is one of satire. And while satire has basis in reality, it is still a fabrication. The real abuse comes when people in power use speech to spread fear of what they don't understand and the media industry has failed in its job to stop them and inform the public on what it truly needs to know; and,*

**WHEREAS**, the Promethean's April Fool's edition stimulated students, staff, and faculty to engage challenging campus discussion, conversation, and critical thinking, including a campus discussion held on 4/11/16 with a multi-page handout for attendees, the CETL Director's explanation and analysis of satire in her weekly message, letters, emails, social media posts, local and regional news articles and opinion, class discussions on the topics of democracy, press freedom, inclusivity and respect, along with countless interpersonal conversations in departments, offices, and residence halls; and,

**WHEREAS**, a primary purpose of a liberal arts education is to teach, learn, and engage critical thinking; and,

**WHEREAS**, the mission statement of UW-Superior's University Studies reads: *The University Studies Program advances engaged learning so that students actively pursue and acquire knowledge from a variety of disciplinary perspectives; develop intellectual capacities to be creative, flexible, and critical thinkers; and develop academic skills to succeed in major/minor fields and life in an increasingly diverse society with global challenges and opportunities.*

**WHEREAS**, the Communicating Arts Department does not censor free expression in creative student work, including student speech in film, video, theatre, journalism, and other expressive projects; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Promethean staff exercised their First Amendment Rights as student journalists at an open public university; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Communicating Arts Department stands behind the Promethean's right to freedom of the press, all student's right to freedom of expression, and urges continuation of open, thoughtful discussion, thus inspiring crucial exercises in student learning, diverse arguments and perspectives, and critical thinking.