

Ohio University Faculty Senate passed unanimously the following resolution,
Monday evening, March 8, 2004

Whereas, it is a responsibility of the Ohio educators to present science and encourage scientific inquiry; and

Whereas, science is a systematic method of continuing investigation, based on observation, hypothesis testing, measurement, experimentation, and theory building, that leads to more adequate explanations of natural phenomena, explanations that are open to further testing, revision, and falsification, and may be accepted or rejected on the basis of evidence; and

Whereas, the theory of evolution, as presently developed, fully satisfies these criteria, especially when its teaching considers the remaining debates concerning its detailed mechanisms; and

Whereas, a recent decision by the State Board of Education establishes a module for the "critical assessment of evolution," which simultaneously attacks the theory itself and facilitates the introduction of pseudo-scientific approaches such as "Creationism" or "Intelligent Design," that have no scientific validity,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Ohio University Faculty Senate supports legislation reversing the State Board's decision and restoring genuine science education to the state's public school curricula, and

be it further resolved that the Ohio University Faculty Senate urges citizens, educational authorities, and legislators to oppose any alteration of the science curriculum or state proficiency tests in science that would in any way accommodate approaches based on either religious beliefs or other sources that are not amenable to the scientific process of inquiry, scrutiny, testing, and revision.