A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION OF BILINGUAL NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS AND SPEAKERS OF ENDANGERED LANGUAGES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Sponsored and written by: Russell Hugo (Linguistics), and Yutaka Jono (GPSS Secretary).

Resolution Number: 9.07-08

WHEREAS, The primary mission of the University of Washington is the preservation, advancement, and dissemination of knowledge; and

WHEREAS, Linguistic identity often plays an important cultural role; and

WHEREAS, Many languages spoken by small groups of people are in danger of being extinct; and

WHEREAS, There have been reports and allegations of linguistic and dialect discrimination; and

WHEREAS, The University is committed to promoting diversity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, GPSS supports exploring the following policies on campus:

1) To officially recognize the cultural and intellectual value to the UW community of non-native English speaking bilingualism and/or fluency in a/an endangered language(s).

2) To officially recognize that the linguistic identity of a speaker is an important diversity factor.

3) To discourage linguistic discrimination on the basis of a speaker's first language

4) To establish databases of native speakers of languages other than English, as well as 2nd language speakers of endangered languages.

5) To create an opt-in process for those speakers in the database who are willing to be contacted:
   a) For vital translation support in the UW and surrounding community medical centers (either voluntary or for possible monetary compensation).
   b) For linguistic studies (e.g., work related to language preservation) (again, perhaps with monetary compensation).
c) For establishing support and outreach groups where the use of the language is encouraged to continue being used and materials/methods/research to facilitate the process may be shared with speakers, especially parents who are raising bilingual children.

6) To recommend that these points might also be considered a factor in the admissions process.

THAT, This resolution, upon approval, be sent to President Mark Emmert, and Todd B. Mildon, JD (University Registrar, Director of Student Academic Data Management).

Presented to GPSS for approval on May 5, 2008
Approved on May 7, 2008