Psychology Department Resolution in Support of Academic Freedom
and the College’s Core Values
3/24/14

As members of the Psychology Department at the College of Charleston, we stand FOR academic freedom surrounding our core values of Integrity, Academic Excellence, and providing a Liberal Arts and Sciences Education. Fun Home is an autobiography about parent-child relationships, family dynamics, generational divides, dealing with a parent’s death, failed dreams, discovering one’s sexual identity, and culturally constructed ideals of masculinity and femininity. It is a valuable vehicle for teaching and learning because these difficult and relevant issues foster “...student’s ability to think creatively and analyze, synthesize, apply and communicate knowledge from many sources” (from the College of Charleston’s Core Values statement, http://academicaffairs.cofc.edu/core-values/index.php).

We also believe in Respect for the Individual Student, developing our Community, and promoting Diversity, which are also explicitly named and defined in the College’s Core Values Statement. Clearly, this includes people who identify as lesbian or gay or queer or bisexual or intersexual or transgendered who are our students and staff and colleagues, our loved ones, and members of our community, both local and global.

We recognize that Board members, legislators, parents, and others bring their own set of values and opinions regarding themes explored in Fun Home. These opinions may or may not be in line with the faculty’s and the Administration’s view of the book selection of the College Reads! program. But, we believe that we can make the assumption that all groups involved in this discussion have the best interests of our students at heart. And if that is the case, we share in common the most important thing in the context of this situation – the well-being of our students. Starting from the assumption that we are alike can go a long way in furthering a constructive dialogue that explores our divergent opinions.

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