Resolution Concerning Learning Environments at Indiana University

WHEREAS Indiana University students have expressed concerns including discomfort and distraction while attending classes taught in Woodburn Hall 100 due to the presence of the Thomas Hart Benton mural panel "Parks, the Circus, the Klan, the Press" depicting a burning cross and images of Klan members;

WHEREAS Indiana University students have been captive audiences in classes scheduled in Woodburn 100 that are devoted to subjects far removed from the themes in the Thomas Hart Benton mural panel "Parks, the Circus, the Klan, the Press"; and

WHEREAS the Provost is enacting plans to repurpose Woodburn Hall 100 containing the Thomas Hart Benton mural panel "Parks, the Circus, the Klan, the Press" from classroom space to gallery space and public lecture space, venues that are more conducive to teaching about the mural than many of the courses that have been taught in the room;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Bloomington Faculty

1) Heeds the concerns of the students voicing discomfort with the use of Woodburn Hall 100 as classroom space;

2) Applauds the Provost's plan to repurpose Woodburn Hall 100 from classroom space to gallery space and/or public lecture space;

3) Supports the use of the other open panels in Woodburn Hall 100 for opportunities to extend the visual dialog in that room; and

4) Resolves to be mindful of creating inclusive learning environments for all Indiana University students.