

Vassar Student Association Resolution 27-4  
A Resolution in Support of Widespread and Coordinated Use of Trigger Warnings

**WHEREAS**, research on post-traumatic stress disorder (“PTSD”) has demonstrated that experiences related to an initial traumatic event (“trauma triggers”) can cause painful flashbacks, memories, or further traumatic episodes; and

**WHEREAS**, this research has been generalized to those who are not diagnosed with PTSD, indicating that trauma triggers can cause negative, painful, harmful, and damaging experiences in any trauma victim; and

**WHEREAS**, trauma triggers are not a special or abnormal category of occurrence but are instead common and everyday events, harmful only to those with particular histories; and

**WHEREAS**, adequate forewarning of specific events that may be personal trauma triggers can prevent a recurrence of traumatic experience; and

**WHEREAS**, such forewarnings (“trigger warnings”) are commonplace in many communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Vassar Student Association (the “Council”) wishes to be mindful of the needs, rights, and wellbeing of members of the Vassar community and to actively promote their welfare;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council shall endorse and support the broad use of trigger warnings on campus publications, announcements, and documents of all kinds; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Vassar Student Association shall recommend to the Assistant Director for Campus activities that the Programming Resources Guide be amended to include a required trigger warning on all event advertising; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Academics Committee of the VSA shall provide the same language to the Student Activities Resources Center for inclusion in their event-registration checklist; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Academics Committee of the VSA shall petition all department chairs and program directors to include trigger warnings in their course descriptions for any class that consistently and significantly involves physical contact, animal dissection or harm, or graphic portrayals of violence or sexual assault; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Academics Committee of the VSA shall encourage the Majors’ Committees to publish information including such trigger warnings for all classes relevant to their respective courses of study.