

**Memorandum to:** Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario  
**From:** The University of Windsor  
**Date:** August 28, 2019  
**Subject:** Freedom of Expression/Speech Annual Report

On November 27, 2018, the University of Windsor's Board of Governors approved the University's *Policy on Freedom of Expression*. The policy is posted on the University's website [here](#).

The following is the University's Annual Report to HEQCO on the implementation of this policy on freedom of expression, following the queries and reporting guidelines shared by HEQCO in its memorandum dated June 12, 2019.

### **Institutional Culture & Policies**

The University of Windsor's Freedom of Expression policy draws on the University's long-standing commitment to freedom of expression and speech in our community and incorporates a number of pre-existing policies which are named in the policy itself. As the University consulted with campus stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff and community members, there was initial constructive dialogue on the creation of the policy approved in November 2018. There was strong consensus on the final version of this policy across all campus and community groups. Further debate and dialogue since the policy's posting on January 1, 2019 has not been evident across these stakeholder groups.

Existing university policies were well-aligned with the November 2018 *Policy on Freedom of Expression* and have not been altered in any significant way as a result of its creation. Relatedly, the 2018 policy has been well-constructed and received. At present, we have not had any cause to revisit or amend the policy accordingly.

### **Events**

According to our Campus Services office, the University of Windsor hosted approximately 115 events that were non-curricular and were booked by outside clients. Some of these were multiple bookings from the same client, so this does not represent a total of 115 separate clients.

We have created a [Freedom of Expression website](#) to help our campus community deal with frequently asked questions (FAQs) about freedom of expression and event booking at the University of Windsor. Typically, freedom of expression questions or complaints are directed to either our Office of Student Experience, our Office of Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility, or Campus Police. These offices also communicate with central administration as necessary.

Cost and or safety concerns regarding freedom of expression and the booking of events on campus are borne by the individual(s) who are booking those events. Guidance is available via our event booking website and our Freedom of Expression FAQs website. To our knowledge, there were no instances

where a non-curriculum event did not proceed due to any concerns surrounding freedom of expression/speech.

### **Complaints**

There have been zero incidents of curricular or non-curricular events on campus during this reporting period that caused any members of the institutional community (or guests) to make an official complaint about free speech or free expression on campus.