Freedom of Speech Annual Report – August 26, 2024

Section A: Institutional Policy

Has your institution amended its free speech policy (or policy framework) since the time of your 2023 report? If so, please explain the reason for the change and provide the link to its location on your institutional website.

> There have been no changes made to OCAD University's free speech policy framework since the time of the 2023 report.

Where are members of the institutional community (or guests) directed when there is a free speech related question or complaint about an institutional event? Please provide contact information.

> In general, queries regarding specific events may be raised with the event organizers. Offices that may be contacted to respond to questions or concerns regarding the violation of a University policy or code of conduct in relation to free speech include the Office of People and Culture (for complaints against faculty/staff), the Office of Diversity, Equity and Sustainability Initiatives, or the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students & International (for complaints against students).
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> Office of People and Culture
> Connie Arezes-Reis, Interim Executive Director, People and Culture – carezesreis@ocadu.ca
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> Office of Diversity, Equity and Sustainability Initiatives
> Shamina Chherawala, Programs, Outreach & Human Rights Advisor – schherawala@ocadu.ca
>
> Office of the Vice-Provost, Students & International
> Deanne Fisher, Vice-Provost, Students & International – dfisher@ocadu.ca

What is your institution's policy on holding events where there are security concerns? To your knowledge, were there any instances where a non-curricular event did not proceed due to security concerns or their related costs?

> Where security concerns in regard to an event or incident are raised, the Office of Safety, Security and Campus Operations conducts a risk assessment to respond to any safety and security concerns.
>
> After thorough polling, the University is unaware of any instances where a non-curricular event did not proceed due to security concerns or their related costs.

Section B: Complaints

You may append additional documentation or institution-specific information as you see fit.

Between **August 1, 2023** and **July 31, 2024**, did any member of the institutional community (or guests) make an official complaint about free speech? If yes, please provide a general description that protects the privacy of complainants.

> The University is unaware of any official complaints made regarding free speech from members of the institutional community or guests in relation to any non-curricular or curricular events held during the reporting period.

If there has been an official complaint (or more than one):

What were the issues under consideration? Please identify any points of contention (e.g., security costs, safety, student unions and/or groups, operational requirements, etc.).

> N/A

How did the institution manage the free speech complaint(s)? Was the complaint addressed using the procedures set out in the policy? How were issues resolved?

> N/A

Section C: Summary Data

Please provide the following summary data for free-speech-related official complaints received by the institution:

Number of official complaints received under the free speech policy relating to curricular and non-curricular events.	0
Number of official complaints reviewed that did not proceed.	0
Number of official complaints where the institution determined that the free speech policy was not followed appropriately.	0
Number of official complaints under the free speech policy that resulted in the institution applying disciplinary or other institutional measures.	0
To your knowledge, were any free speech complaints forwarded to the Ontario Ombudsman?	No

To the best of your ability, please provide an estimate of the number of **non-curricular events** held at the institution between **August 1, 2023 and July 31, 2024**. Non-curricular events include, for example, invited speakers, sporting events, rallies, student life/student affairs events, conferences, etc., as opposed to regular events held as part of an academic program or course.

The University held approximately 890 non-curricular events on campus or online during the reporting period.

Institutional Comments (if any).

As with many Ontario universities, during the reporting period, there were instances of issues or complaints raised by individuals and/or groups regarding the content of speech on campus – in particular, related to hate speech, inclusivity and community safety – related to global political events. The university administration took the necessary steps to assess whether the issues and complaints raised concerning the content of speech were within the bounds of university policies for further action, or if additional security measures were required as a precaution for an event. The issues or complaints raised did not pertain to the right to free speech being impeded.