



August 29, 2019

1 Yonge Street, Suite 2402
Toronto, Ontario
M5E 1E5

Dear Dr. Weingarten:

We thank you for this opportunity to report on the implementation of Western University's Freedom of Expression Policy.

The University's Freedom of Expression Policy and Procedures were developed by an ad hoc Committee of faculty, students and staff of the University. This Committee consulted widely with the University Community, which included four Campus Community Consultation Sessions hosted by members of the Committee and two Town Halls. The University Community was also invited to submit written comments via email to the Committee.

On November 29, 2018, the University's Board of Governors approved the Policy and Procedures after they were approved and recommended unanimously by the University's Senate. This was reported to HEQCO at the end of 2018 and HEQCO was provided with a copies of the Policy and Procedures.

Institutional Culture & Polices

Continuous debate and dialogue on the University's campus with regard to freedom of expression had occurred before and after the Province's requirement for a policy. Freedom of expression has always been and forever will be at the forefront of the University and informs many of the decisions the University makes throughout the year in relation to a variety of events and activities.

Institutional practices have not changed as a result of the policy. The University has been a long supporter of freedom of expression on campus. From controversial speakers to non-violent protests, the University welcomes and has welcomed the free exchange of opinions and ideas as well as the opposition and challenge to those opinions and ideas.

No issues have emerged in the past year which would cause the University to re-evaluate or amend its policy.

Events

The recorded non-curriculum events that took place on campus between January 1st 2019 and August 31, 2019 was approximately 9,715. This number does not include events held in space controlled directly by the faculties (which are not booked through the central reservation system). We estimate that the inclusion of non-curriculum based events held in space controlled directly by facilities would increase the total number of non-curriculum based events by an additional 30% to 40%.

The University's Ombudsperson is available for any individual considering a complaint to consult about the Policy and the Proctng th (itiesan)7 (e) (and)7 (au)(t)-10 (inc)3 (e)TJa@ p)-2 (as)2 (t

- Number of complaints or incidents where the institution determined that the free speech policy was not followed appropriately. 0
- Number of complaints or incidents under the free speech policy which resulted in the institution applying disciplinary measures. 0

I trust this satisfies the questions posed in your memorandum of June 12, 2019. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hrymak, PhD
Provost & Vice-