

## FREE SPEECH ANNUAL REPORT January-August 2019

Laurentian University is providing this first Free Speech Annual Report that covers the period between January 1, 2019 to August 31, 2019.

### **Policy Adoption**

At its December 2018, the Laurentian University Board of Governors approved the Working Group's recommended policy, ensuring compliance with the government directive. The Policy was also presented and discussed at Senate. The approved policy was publicly available on the main page of the Laurentian University website prior to December 31, 2018. The Policy was extended by the Board of Governors in June 2019 for an additional 12 months. In June 2020, the Senate and the Board of Governors will receive an update on the implementation of the policy, and the policy will be submitted for approval for an extended period of time.

### **Institutional Culture and Policies**

The principles of freedom of speech are well-known within the university community. The adoption of the University's freedom of expression (freedom of speech) policy did not result in an added discussion about freedom of speech on campus.

Following the adoption of the University's freedom of expression (freedom of speech) policy, the Freedom of Expression (Freedom of Speech) Working Group has engaged with other constituencies on campus to discuss how their practices and procedures relate to this new policy. As a result, minor changes to existing practices and procedures were made this past year.

The Freedom of Expression (Freedom of Speech) Working Group recommended to the Board of Governors that the proposed policy, dated December 2018, be reviewed in six months (June 2019). This shorter window gave the Freedom of Expression (Freedom of Speech) Working Group the opportunity to propose changes based on emerging issues from within and outside the Laurentian University community. In June 2019, the Freedom of Expression (Freedom of Speech) Working Group recommended that the Board of Governors renew its approval of the current policy, without amendments, for another 12 months.

### **Events**

The University received no complaints about free speech during the period covered by this Free Speech Annual Report. As such, beyond the human resources cost of convening the Freedom of Expression (Freedom of Speech) Working Group to develop and support the implementation of the policy, there were no other free speech related costs or safety concerns.

At the moment, the following practice is in place to answer questions or to receive freedom of speech complaints:

1. The Office of the President would submit questions or complaints to the Freedom of Expression (Freedom of Speech) Working Group through its chair, Dr. Yves Pelletier.
2. The Chair of the Freedom of Expression (Freedom of Speech) Working Group would convene a meeting of its members to provide a recommendation to the Office of the President on complaints. The Chair of the Freedom of Expression (Freedom of Speech) Working Group is tasked with responding to questions about the University's policy.

### Complaints

The University received no complaints from members of its university community or external guest on campus.

### Statistical Data

| Measure   | # |
|---|---|
| Number of complaints received under the free speech policy relating to non-curricular activities and to curricular events       | 0 |
| Number of complaints reviewed that were dismissed   | 0 |
| Number of complaints or incidents 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 |

### For any additional information, please contact:

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