



Policy on Institutional Neutrality

1. Purpose:

1.1. Laurentian University is committed to creating an environment that encourages open discourse, celebrates diversity, and respects the independent viewpoints of its community members. In line with this commitment, and the existing "[Policy on the Freedom of Speech \(Freedom of Expression\)](#)", the University acknowledges the importance of impartiality and does not itself take political or social stances, other than those consistent with the University's mandate or policies.

2. Scope:

2.1. This Policy applies only to the President and Vice-Chancellor, the Chair of the Board of Governors, any officers of the University, or those to whom those persons have delegated authority to speak on their behalf. This policy does not apply to personal statements made by University leaders outside of their institutional duties.

3. Policy Statement:

3.1. Laurentian University is a community of diverse viewpoints, encompassing students, faculty, staff, alumni, and volunteers. It is essential to maintain a neutral institutional position on politics or social issues in order to honour this diversity and preserve an environment where the free exchange of ideas can thrive.

4. Principles:

- 4.1. **Respect for Discourse:** The University values the diverse range of beliefs and opinions within its community. It is a place that encourages respectful discourse.
- 4.2. **Impartiality:** The University will remain impartial on matters of a political, social, or ideological nature. It will not engage in advocacy for specific political parties, candidates, or causes, other than those consistent with the University's mandate or policies.
- 4.3. **Unbiased:** The University's institutional neutrality will not be influenced by the personal beliefs and opinions of its leadership. The institution must stand as a collective entity that transcends the diverse perspectives of its individual members, including leaders.

5. Conclusion:

5.1. Laurentian University is dedicated to providing an inclusive environment that respects the viewpoints of its community members. By adhering to the principles of institutional neutrality, the University seeks to maintain a welcoming atmosphere that supports intellectual exploration, diversity, and open discourse.