



Freedom of Speech Annual Report – University of Ottawa (2023)

As indicated in the December 14, 2018 and September 12, 2018 memos from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, each of Ontario's publicly-assisted colleges and universities is to prepare an annual report on the implementation of a free speech policy. Please use this template; you may append additional documents or institution-specific information as you see fit.

The institutional Freedom of Speech Annual Report will be a public document and should respect privacy obligations. Please report on events or incidents that took place between **August 1, 2022** and **July 31, 2023**.

The reports are to be posted on the institution's website and submitted to the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) by **September 1, 2023**.

Please submit your institution's annual report and the link to its location on your website to submissions@heqco.ca. Please reach out to HEQCO at the same address with any questions.

Section A: Institutional Policy

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

Has your institution amended its free speech policy (or policy framework) since the time of your 2022 report? If so, please explain the reason for the change and provide the link to its location on your institutional website.

No, there have been no changes to Policy 121 – Statement on Free Expression since the release of the 2022 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.

The implementation and periodic review of this policy are the responsibility of the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs.

The contact information is as follows:

Rachel Ouellette
Chief of Staff
550 Cumberland Street, Room 217
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 6N5
613-562-5737
provost@uOttawa.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?

All events are reviewed and approved through a central University of Ottawa team. Any security concerns and/or potential issues are reviewed and addressed with the event organizer. Should additional security be required based on the University's assessment of the risk, those costs are invoiced to the organizer. If security risks are deemed to be too high, the event is not permitted to be hosted on uOttawa grounds.

There were no events that did not take place due to security or cost concerns. All policies related to holding events on campus can be found on the website at the following link: <https://www.uottawa.ca/administration-and-governance/policy-121statement-free-expression>.

Section B: Complaints

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

Between **August 1, 2022** and **July 31, 2023**, 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.

No, the University of Ottawa has not received formal complaints about freedom of speech on campus.

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.	none
Number of official complaints reviewed that did not proceed.	none
Number of official complaints where the institution determined that the free speech policy was not followed appropriately.	none
Number of official complaints under the free speech policy that resulted in the institution applying disciplinary or other institutional measures.	none
To your knowledge, were any free speech complaints forwarded to the Ontario Ombudsman?	none

To the best of your ability, please provide an estimate of the number of **non-curricular events** held at the institution either online or in person between **August 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023**. 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.

Every year, thousands of events are organized at the University of Ottawa by various internal and external groups. Many of these events are coordinated by our Conventions and Reservations service, which provides support to the organizers.

Data collected by the Conventions and Reservations service shows that at least 3,480 non-curricular events were held during the period covered by this report.

Institutional comments (if any).

N/A