



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

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POLICY MANUAL  
STATEMENT OF POLICY AND PRINCIPLES ON  
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

**Responsible Department:** Office of the Provost  
**Recommended By:** Provost and Executive Vice  
Chancellor  
**Approved By:** Faculty Senate and the Board of  
Trustees

**Policy Number**  
PROV 2.30.081

**Effective Date**  
1/19/2018

## I. INTRODUCTION

Freedom of expression is crucial to the mission of the University. Absent a commitment to freedom of expression, the University could neither pursue its three core goals of promoting community, learning, and scholarship, nor promote its key values: excellence, innovation, engagement, integrity, and inclusiveness. To claim that freedom of expression is crucial to our values and goals is not, however, to ignore the fact that a commitment to speech can, on occasion, create tension within those same values and goals, as events across the country and on the University campus have shown. In a society confronting social, racial, gender, religious, economic, and other inequalities, where historically some voices and some communities have been marginalized, excluded, or silenced, a commitment to free speech must, at the same time, include a commitment to inclusiveness, to ensure that all members of our community feel equally welcome to participate in discourse and receive divergent information.

## II. POLICY OVERVIEW

- A.** Recognizing the central importance of freedom of expression to its educational mission, the Faculty Senate adopted a motion on April 27, 2017 in support of the [Statement of Policy and Principles on Freedom of Expression](#). The Statement of Policy and Principles on Freedom of Expression is the product of more than a year's work by a committee of faculty from across campus.
- B.** In addition to defining University policy and principles on freedom of expression, the Senate also appointed a University Committee for the Promotion of Free Expression comprised of students, staff, and faculty. The Committee for the Promotion of Free Expression is charged with the following:
1. proactively creating forums for meaningful, responsible engagement of diverse and opposing viewpoints among all campus constituencies,

particularly concerning the types of issues that are likely to lead to tensions on campus;

- 2. addressing such issues as they arise in ways that aim to resolve them in a manner that increases dialogue, respects speakers of diverse viewpoints, and seeks to heal and build community; and
- 3. when requested, assisting the University and members of the University community in examining issues of freedom of expression.

C. Taken together, these charges empower the Committee to serve a fundamental educational purpose: to cultivate amongst constituencies across campus a deep understanding of and appreciation for the value of freedom of expression, particularly as that value intersects with other, equally central University values, notably diversity and inclusivity.

D. The complete Statement of Policy and Principles on Freedom of Expression can be found [here](#).

**III. PROCESS OVERVIEW**

None

**IV. DEFINITIONS**

None

Revision Effective Date	Purpose