

Algonquin College Free Speech Annual Report

HEQCO Reporting guidelines:

Freedom of speech policies have governed speech on campus since posting/implementation on January 01, 2019. Within the confines of our protection of privacy obligations, the following is a report on event or incidents that have emerged during this initial implementation period. If a particular question can only be answered as of a specific date, we have indicated the currency of the answer.

Institutional Culture & Policies

In the wake of the government's requirement for institutional free speech policies, has there been ongoing debate or dialogue on campus with regard to freedom of speech?

In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and their corresponding teams/areas/departments, there has been no ongoing debate or dialogue with regard to freedom of speech.

Have institutional practices changed as a result of the free speech policy? For example, has the new free speech policy led to a re-examination or amendment of other institutional policies? If yes, please describe.

In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and their corresponding teams/areas/departments, no institutional practices have changed as a result of the free speech policy (Algonquin College [Policy AD07: Upholding Freedom of Speech](#)).

Now that your free speech policy has been in effect for a period of time, have any issues emerged that would cause you to re-evaluate or amend your existing policy? If so, please describe.

In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and their corresponding teams/areas/departments, no issues have emerged that would cause us to re-evaluate or amend our existing policy.

Events

In terms of non-curricular events – invited speakers for example – as opposed to regular events held as part of an academic program, and to the best of your ability, provide an estimate of the number of non-curriculum events that have been held at the institution since January 01, 2019.

In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and their corresponding teams/areas/departments, approximately 450 non-curriculum events that have been held at Algonquin College since January 01, 2019.

Is there a designated office at the institution where members of the institutional community (or guests) are directed when there is a free speech related question or complaint about an event on campus?

The approving authority for Algonquin's "Upholding Free Speech Policy (AD07)" falls to the Senior Vice President Academic. This policy statement is aligned with other college policies, all of which shall be read in harmony. Depending on the nature of the complaint, it may be redirected as appropriate. For employees, those policies include RE07: Academic Freedom Rights and Responsibilities and HR18: Employee Code of Conduct. For students, this policy aligns with the College's policy SA07: Student Conduct.

How did your institution navigate free speech related cost and/or safety concerns related to events on campus? To your knowledge, were there any instances where a non-curriculum event did not proceed due to these concerns?

In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and their corresponding teams/areas/departments, there were no free speech related cost and/or free speech safety concerns related to events on campus, and to our knowledge, there were no instances where a non-curriculum event was unable to proceed due to these concerns.

Complaints

Have any organized campus events or incidents on campus – curricular or non-curricular – caused members of the institutional community (or guests) to make an official complaint about free speech on campus?

In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and their corresponding teams/areas/departments, there have been no organized campus events or incidents on campus – curricular or non-curricular that have caused members of the institutional community (or guests) to have made an official complaint about free speech on campus.

If there has been a complaint (or more than one), please describe:

In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and their corresponding teams/areas/departments, there have been no complaints.

What were the issues under consideration? Identify any points of contention (e.g. security costs, safety, student unions and/or groups, operational requirements, etc.)

As there were no complaints, this question is not applicable.

How did the institution manage the free speech incident? Was the complaint addressed using the procedures set out in the policy? Did the policy/institutional process "work"? How were issues in contention resolved?

As there were no incidents or complaints, this question is not applicable.

Were there instances where members of the institutional community (or guests) sought redress or interpretation regarding the policy and/or requests for assistance with compliance?

As there were no instances of redress or requests for assistance with compliance, this question is not applicable.

To your knowledge, were any free speech complaints forwarded to the Ontario Ombudsman?

To our knowledge, there were no complaints, and no requests were forwarded to the Ontario Ombudsman, therefore this question is not applicable.

Data for any free-speech policy relating to non-curricular events and to curricular events:

Number of complaints reviewed that were dismissed:

In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and their corresponding teams/areas/departments, there have been no complaints.

Number of complaints or incidents where the institution determined that the free speech policy was not followed appropriately:

In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and their corresponding teams/areas/departments, there have been no complaints, therefore no issues in determining if the free speech policy was not followed appropriately.

Number of complaints or incidents under the free speech policy which resulted in the institution applying disciplinary measures:

In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and their corresponding teams/areas/departments, there have been no complaints, therefore no disciplinary measures required.