

August 25, 2023

Attn: Submissions Office
Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario
1 Yonge Street, Suite 2402
Toronto, ON M5E 1E5

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Western University's 2023 Annual Report on Freedom of Expression

We thank you for this opportunity to report on Western University's Freedom of Expression Policy for the period of August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.

Institutional Policy

The University's Board of Governors approved Western's current Policy on November 29, 2018. There have been no amendments to the Policy or its Procedures since their original enactment by the Board of Governors.

When members of the community (or guests) have questions related to freedom of expression or a complaint about an event on campus, they are referred to the University's Ombudsperson; this is expressly provided for in the Procedures to the Policy. The University Ombudsperson can be reached at ombuds@uwo.ca. If an individual wishes to file a complaint, the Procedures identify the appropriate Office within Western's Administration team to receive and process the complaint, which is dependent on whether the respondent is a student, student group, student union, staff member, faculty member, guest, or the University itself.

Western does not have a formal policy related to security concerns of events on campus. Western's practice is to review an event to determine whether any security concerns arise. If security concerns arise, security is arranged by Western and the related security costs are charged to the event organizer, unless otherwise agreed to between Western and the event organizer.

To our knowledge, there were no instances where a non-curricular event did not proceed during the reporting period due to security concerns or their related costs.

Complaints

The University received no complaints under the Policy during the period of August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.

Data Reporting

Number of official complaints received under the free speech policy relating to curricular and non-curricular events.	0
Number of official complaints reviewed that were dismissed.	0
Number of official complaints where the institution determined that the free speech policy was not followed appropriately.	0
Number of official complaints under the free speech policy that resulted in the institution applying disciplinary or other institutional measures.	0
To your knowledge, were any free speech complaints forwarded to the Ontario Ombudsman?	0

The recorded non-curriculum events that were held on campus between August 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023 is approximately 8,077. This number does not include events held in space controlled directly by the faculties (which are not booked through the central reservation system). We estimate that the inclusion of non-curriculum based events held in space controlled directly by faculties would increase the total number of non-curriculum based events by an additional 30% to 40%.

We are unable to confirm the number of online events held at the University as this number is not tracked by the University.

I trust this satisfies the questions posed in Ms. Kelly Shields' memorandum of June 5, 2023.

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Florentine Strzelczyk, PhD
Provost & Vice-President (Academic)