

Indiana University
School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI
Faculty Resolution on Rights and Responsibilities of Expression

*[E]ducation should not be intended to make people comfortable, it is meant to make them think. Universities should be expected to provide the conditions within which hard thought, and therefore strong disagreement, independent judgment, and the questioning of stubborn assumptions, can flourish in an environment of the greatest freedom.
Hanna Holborn Gray, President, University of Chicago (1978-1993)*

Whereas the School of Liberal Arts is founded upon the conviction that the Liberal Arts are essential to a democratic society in providing citizens and residents with an education that allows for the critical analysis of foundational ideals, ideas, assumptions, opinions, and beliefs, for the reflection upon such ideals, ideas, assumptions, opinions, and beliefs, and for the pursuit of truth in understanding and in the function of such ideals, ideas, assumptions, opinions, and beliefs in everyday life, in keeping with the past president of the University of Chicago Hanna Holborn Gray's observation above;

And whereas further the School of Liberal Arts is based on the position that the expression and investigation of such ideals, ideas, assumptions, opinions, and beliefs is a fundamental right of all members of the University community in support of, harmonization with, respect for, and in the realization of the First Amendment rights and the corresponding rights of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

The School of Liberal Arts hereby proclaims and resolves that all members of the University community have the fundamental right to the expression of their own ideals, ideas, assumptions, opinions, and beliefs in the written, spoken, and graphic word, including in digitalized forms such as social media, as well as in actions that function as speech acts of expression of those ideals, ideas, assumptions, opinions, and beliefs, limited only by the infringement such expression could have on the fundamental right of others for equal expression of their ideals, ideas, assumptions, opinions, and beliefs. Further, all members of the University community have the fundamental right to advocate for their ideals, ideas, assumptions, opinions, and beliefs, and to defend and promote their ideals, ideas, assumptions,

opinions, and beliefs, limited likewise only by infringement of the rights of others to do likewise.

The School of Liberal Arts endeavors to guarantee these fundamental rights of expression without establishing, advocating, or endorsing the ideas, ideals, assumptions, opinions, or beliefs of any particular member or members of the University community. The School of Liberal Arts acknowledges that particular ideals, ideas, assumptions, opinions, or beliefs may be considered by some or even by most members of the School community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed; it is for the individual members of the School community, not for the School as an institution, to make judgments in such instances of expression for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress expression, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose. Indeed, fostering the ability of members of the School community to engage in such debate and deliberation in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the School's educational mission. Although members of the School community are free to criticize and contest the views expressed on campus, and to criticize and contest speakers who are invited to express their views on campus, they may not obstruct or otherwise interfere with the rights of others to express views they reject or even loathe, nor engage in acts that violate the law, that constitute a genuine threat, or that unjustifiably invade substantial privacy or confidentiality interests. To ensure the rights of expression of all members of the university community is the responsibility of all members of the School of Liberal Arts.

To this end, the School as such, as well as its individual members, has a solemn responsibility not only to promote the right of lively and fearless debate, deliberation, and expression, but also to protect that right when others attempt to restrict it. To foster and promote the vigorous pursuit of truth and understanding by means of research, critical analysis, debate, and creative expression is the very mission of the School of Liberal Arts, which therefore issues this proclamation and resolution on the rights and responsibilities of expression.¹

¹ This document was constructed in consultation with the University of Chicago's "Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression," <http://provost.uchicago.edu/FOECommitteeReport.pdf>. Also see Purdue University's commitment to Freedom of Expression, <https://purdue.edu/!/purdue/about/free-speech.html>