

Freedom of Speech Annual Report Template (2025)

As indicated in the December 14, 2018 and September 12, 2018 memos from the then Ministry of Training, 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, 2024** and **July 31, 2025**.

The reports are to be posted on the institution's website and submitted to the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) by **September 2, 2025**.

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 2024 report? If so, please explain the reason for the change and provide the link to its location on your institutional website.

No. The University of Guelph policy statement was approved in December 2018, and no issues have arisen to prompt a re-evaluation or amendment of the policy statement. The policy statement is available online at www.uoguelph.ca/freedom-of-expression/ and is complementary to many long-standing University policies.

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.

Individuals with questions, concerns or complaints related to the Freedom of Expression policy statement are directed to the University Secretariat:

University Secretariat
University Centre, 4th Floor
519-824-4120 x.56571
univsec@uoguelph.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?

The University makes decisions regarding the time, place and manner of an event. Considerations may include the number of anticipated attendees, equipment required, and operational costs including security costs. Decisions regarding events with specific security concerns are made in a manner that balances the University's obligations regarding safety and security with the financial impact on University resources including U of G programs.

Policies related to use of campus space and events may be found at:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/freedom-of-expression/links>

The University is not aware of any non-curricular events that did not proceed due to security concerns or related costs.

Section B: Complaints

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

Between **August 1, 2024** and **July 31, 2025**, 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, there were no complaints received during the period of August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025.

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.	0
Number of official complaints reviewed that did not proceed.	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?	No

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, 2024 and July 31, 2025**. 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.

Approximately 415 non-curricular events were held at the institution between August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025.

Institutional Comments (if any).