



# FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

This procedure is governed by its parent policy. Questions regarding this procedure are to be directed to the identified Procedure Owner.

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| <b>Category:</b>        | A. General       |
| <b>Parent Policy:</b>   | A50              |
| <b>Approval Date:</b>   | February 9, 2024 |
| <b>Effective Date:</b>  | February 9, 2024 |
| <b>Procedure Owner:</b> | President        |

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| <b>Overview:</b>   | <p>Olds College of Agriculture &amp; Technology (the “College”) recognizes that the expression of some ideas and the presence of some speakers on campus will be controversial, and that questions will be raised about whether they should be allowed at the College. Except on the rarest of occasions, expressing or espousing ideas, including those some or many individuals find offensive or repugnant, should not be prohibited on the campus or at any events under its auspices. However, the College also recognizes that, on those rare occasions, decisions to restrict speakers or expression of some ideas on campus may be controversial or their exclusion from campus required.</p> <p>Such situations provide an opportunity for the College to discuss, learn and educate about the nature and limits of freedom of expression. To this end, this statement includes a mechanism whereby College members (that is, current faculty, students and staff) who have concerns about the presence or restriction of some ideas or individuals/groups on campus can have their voices heard and answered.</p> |
| <b>Procedures:</b> | <p>An individual (or group of individuals) may write to the President to explain their concerns.</p> <p>The President shall consult with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and review the request/concerns.</p> <p>The President and ELT will respond to those concerns in writing, outlining reasons that certain individuals or expression of ideas or individuals have been permitted or prohibited on campus.</p> <p>The response will outline any actions, or plans for actions, the President or ELT has undertaken in response to the concerns expressed.</p> <p>The letter to the President, including the name(s) of the signatories, and ELT responses shall be published publicly.</p>   |

Those interested in submitting concerns are advised to:

1. Read this statement of principles on free expression and neutrality at Olds College and the supporting documents, in particular, the Chicago Principles; and
2. Consider their remarks in relation to these statements and principles.

For clarity, Olds College will only restrict expression of ideas that:

1. Violate the law, including by defaming a specific individual or by criminally actionable conduct.
2. Constitute a genuine threat of harassment to a person or persons on campus.
3. Unjustifiably invade privacy or confidentiality.
4. Pose an immediate, and direct, threat or disruption to the conduct of the activities of the College.
5. Pose the likelihood of a security risk to members of the College or the community.

If the College permits an individual or group on campus, it may, at its sole discretion, impose requirements on the individual or group such as, but not limited to, any, or all of:

1. A security deposit of not less than \$10,000.
2. A non-refundable damage deposit of \$1,000.
3. The full cost of facility rental, including any set-up and/or take-down.
4. The full cost of any damage repairs to facilities, equipment, assets or grounds of the College.
5. The full cost and procurement of additional College-approved security (Police, RCMP, Sheriff).
6. A marketing plan for the event, including guidelines for how Olds College may be named or otherwise used in promotional language.
7. Other requirements as defined by the College based on the specific individual or group planning to attend campus.

**Definitions:**

**Related Information:**

[Statement on Institutional Neutrality](#)  
[The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)  
[Chicago Principles - Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression](#)

**Review Period:**

3 years

**Revision History:**

New: February 2024