

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 MacEwan University (the “University”) recognizes that Free Expression is essential to the pursuit of knowledge. The University is a place of open enquiry and neither seeks to shield Members of the University Community from a full range of views, nor permits interference with Free Expression. The University welcomes its role as the appropriate venue for all positions to be tested through the scrutiny brought by discussion and debate.

2.0 PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to express formally the University’s ongoing commitment to providing a space in which all Members of the University Community and visitors can engage in Free Expression.

3.0 APPLICABILITY

- 3.1 This policy applies to all Members of the University Community and all visitors while they are on University premises.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

Free Expression

The expression of ideas, thoughts, beliefs and opinions freely through speech, writing and other forms of communication.

Members of the University Community

Those persons involved in conducting University affairs, including all students, employees, volunteers, contractors and members of the Board of Governors of the University while they are either on or using University property or facilities or participating in University programs and activities, on or off University premises.

5.0 POLICY ELEMENTS

5.1 Statement on Free Expression

- 5.1.1 The University is committed to Free Expression as detailed in Appendix A—Statement on Free Expression.

5.2 Legal Obligations

- 5.2.1 Free Expression cannot violate the law, defame an individual, constitute harassment or a genuine threat, invade privacy or breach confidentiality.

5.3 Policy Compliance

- 5.3.1 Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal of employment or expulsion.

6.0 ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES

None

7.0 RELATED POLICIES, FORMS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

- Appendix A—Statement on Free Expression

8.0 ACCOUNTABILITY

Policy Sponsor

Provost and VP Academic

Responsible Office

Provost's Office

9.0 HISTORY

Relevant Dates

Approved: **19.11.13**

Effective: **19.11.13**

Next Review: **30.04**

Modification History

19.11.13: New Policy. Approved by Board Motion #02-11-13-2019/20.

25.04.10: Policy reviewed by Responsible Office as per review schedule. No revisions required. Approved by Policy Sponsor.

Appendix A - Statement on Free Expression

An Undergraduate University in Alberta's post-secondary system that has established its commitment to academic freedom in the collective agreement negotiated with its Faculty Association, MacEwan University extends to its community a further commitment to open enquiry. The University neither seeks to shield the community from a full range of views nor permits interference with the free expression of ideas, except where such speech violates the law, defames an individual, constitutes harassment or a genuine threat, invades privacy, or breaches confidentiality.

MacEwan University is a place of free and open enquiry. All members of its community—its faculty, its staff, and its students, acting in an individual capacity or as members of a group—have the right to express themselves freely, as do all visitors to campus. They have the right to speak, to write, to listen, to challenge, and to learn. While some people may find specific opinions unwelcome or even offensive, a university is the appropriate venue for all points of view to be tested through the scrutiny brought by discussion and debate. MacEwan University will not restrict the time, place, or manner of lawful conduct, except where it threatens to disrupt the ordinary activities of the institution. Individual members of the University community, and not MacEwan University itself, must judge the validity of ideas that have been shared and, where warranted, contest those ideas in a spirit of mutual respect, rather than seek to suppress free expression. Through rigorous exchange, some points of view will be validated, and other points of view will be discredited.

The University recognizes that free expression is essential to the pursuit of knowledge. All members of the MacEwan community and all visitors to campus are expected to uphold the free expression of other people while following the applicable policies of the University and the relevant legal responsibilities by which the institution is bound.