Free Speech On Campus Committee

Faculty Senate Resolution

October, 2018

Whereas, Cleveland State University firmly supports academ

As a corollary to Cleveland State University's commitment to protect and promote free expression, members of the University community must also act in conformity with the principle of free expression. Although members of the University 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 freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe. To this end, the University has a solemn responsibility not only to promote a lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation, but also to protect that freedom when others attempt to restrict it.[2]

The First Amendment to the Constitution protects controversial, offensive, and radical speech, and no one has a Constitutional right to protection from offensive expression simply because it could be construed as racist, ethnocentric, sexist, anti-Semitic, homophobic, transphobic or hateful. While civility, respect for dissent, and tolerance are important democratic virtues that are essential to civic participation, these values must go hand in hand with guaranteed freedom of expression. While free speech resolutions might seem to favor some entrenched powers and established interests, and insist upon civility and silence as responses from other, more marginalized groups, we wish to affirm regulated free-speech rights for all of our community's speakers, as well as respectful receptivity within all of our engaged audiences, in turn. But these regulations and exceptions cannot ever compromise the University's commitment to a completely free and open discussion of ideas, even when the underlying sentiments are ones with which the university leadership may disagree.

Cleveland State University will make every effort to ensure the safety and secur9956( )3.28149(d)-3.71443(i)0.4