



Policy Name:	Free Speech Policy		
Category:	Students' Council	Policy #	USC-1

1. Preamble

The Student Union recognizes that the principles of freedom of speech and academic freedom are fundamental values for any university. Further, the Student Union recognizes that the right to engage in frank and open debate, to share controversial or unpopular ideas, and to provoke challenges to society's beliefs, is essential for the academic pursuit of truth and preservation of a free and democratic society.

2. Freedom of Speech

The Student Union accepts that the free and open exchange of ideas in an academic context may generate controversy and disputes among members of the University and of the wider community. In such cases, the Student Union will support and protect the free speech of all parties under its jurisdiction. The Student Union will not endeavor to limit or prevent the exercise of free speech on campus and will work to aid those parties whose free speech rights are threatened. The Union further recognizes the fair and reasonable limitations on free expression as stated in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Criminal Code of Canada and pledges not to exercise censorship outside of these legal limits. When members of the Union use speech as a direct attack that has the effect of preventing the lawful exercise of speech by members or invited guests, or interfering with the conduct of authorized University business, the Student Union may intervene.

3. Freedom of Association

The right to free speech is complemented by the right of freedom of association. The right to free speech extends to individuals cooperating in groups. All members have the freedom to communicate in any reasonable way, to hold and advertise meetings, to debate and to engage in peaceful assemblies and demonstrations, to organize groups for any lawful activities and to make reasonable use of Student Union facilities.

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Policy Authority:	Executive Committee		
Approvals	Board/Committee	Date	Motion
Created/Adopted	Executive Committee	03/02/2013	EXEC86