

Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario
Suite 2402, 1 Yonge Street
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Friday, August 30, 2019

Please accept the following as the report from St. Lawrence College (SLC) on the implementation of our free speech policy.

Institutional Culture and Policies

- Since the government instated the requirement for free speech policies there was ongoing dialogue at SLC regarding freedom of speech. Specifically, a committee was formed to support understanding and implementation of the policy. The committee met regularly to ensure the college's requirements were fulfilled and to be ready and informed should the policy need to be enacted.
- No institutional practices were changed as a result of the free speech policy. It was included in the SLC policy centre, widely communicated, posted on-line, and a dedicated email/inbox was created to support communications related to free speech, but no changes to ongoing practices were required.
- No issues have emerged that would cause SLC to need to re-evaluate or amend the existing policy.

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the President
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Events

- An estimate of the number of non-curriculum events held at SLC since January 1, 2019 (this number reflects activity across the three SLC campuses) is 128.
- The office dedicated to handle free-speech related questions or concerns is that of the Senior Vice-President, Strategy, Communications, and Advancement.
- No non-curricular events were unable to proceed due to free speech concerns. To navigate concerns a committee evaluates events that need additional vetting to ensure security, facilities, communication, and event considerations are covered.

Complaints

- No organized events or incidents on campus caused any members of the SLC community to make an official complaint about free speech on campus.

We look forward to learning from the shared insights of our peers in the sector, and I am happy to answer any questions the HEQCO team has about the submission above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Vollebregt".

Glenn Vollebregt
President and CEO
St. Lawrence College