**Trent University Free Speech Report**

# A. Institutional culture and policies

1. During the development of Trent’s free speech policies, our community engaged in a fulsome discussion of free speech and its importance. Students, faculty, and many groups on campus participated. Since the adoption of these policies in January 2019, there has some limited further discussion. The student newspaper, *Arthur*, had an article (on January 18) which summarized the reasons behind the free speech policy, and discussed the potential impact on human rights and marginalized students. They expressed concerns about the distinction between free speech and hate speech, quoting a member of the Trent Central Student Association executive.

[http://www.trentarthur.ca/trent‐free‐speech‐policy‐jan‐2019/](http://www.trentarthur.ca/trent)

On January 8, the *Peterborough Examiner* had an article summarizing the new policy and including quotes from Trent’s Associate Vice President Students, the president of the Trent Conservatives, and a student who had previously written a letter to the editor in November

2018, critical of this generation of students (and erroneously referring to a safe space policy that

does not exist). [https://www.thepeterboro](http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news)ughexami[ner.com/news‐story/9114022‐](http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news)trent‐university‐free‐speech‐ policy‐step‐in‐the‐right‐direction‐/

2. No significant institutional practices have changed as a result of the policy. Previously, conflicts arising from free expression issues between students were referred to the Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and this practice will continue. Other policies, practices and collective agreements, including that address questions of academic freedom, have remained intact.

3. No significant issues have yet emerged from the implementation of the policy requiring amendment or re‐evaluation. The next scheduled policy review is November 2021, if no revisions are required prior to that.

# B. Events

1. Estimated non‐curricular events from January 1, 2019 to August 1, 2019

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| --- | --- |
| **Department/Approval Centre** | **Number of events** |
| Student group events (through risk assessment) | 183 |
| Student services | 142 |
| Housing | 175 |
| College Principals | 66 |
| Athletics Varsity Home Games | 20 |
| External Groups | 60 |
| Trent University Durham (total) | 163 |
| **Estimated Total Events** | **793** |

Four events were not approved through the risk management process for the following reasons:

a) Logistical reasons regarding requested space availability for the group b) Safety concerns (pub crawl)

c) Redirected to Conferences as they were not a student group (and did not proceed)

d) Failed to submit necessary paperwork (waivers).

Note that this list includes approved through Trent’s risk management and event approval process, which is done through student affairs offices for student group events, and as well through housing services, college principals, and athletics. The list also includes university events organized through student affairs, colleges, and athletics, as well as external group bookings through Conference Services. It does not include academic department events.

2. The designated office for student free speech questions, concerns, or complaints is the Office of the Associate Vice President Students on the Peterborough campus, and the Office of Student Affairs on the Durham campus (reporting to the AVP Students in Peterborough).

3. There were no costs or safety concerns related to any events on campus since the free speech policy has been implemented. Nor did any events fail to proceed due to these concerns.

# C. Complaints

There were no incidents related to events on campus that caused any individual or group to make a free speech complaint.

There were no complaints or concerns regarding the university or any students or student group made through the Free Speech Policy.