



A Resolution Requesting Free Speech Rights for All Members of Tufts University

WHEREAS Tufts' Board of Trustees has previously declared, on November 7th, 2009, that freedom of expression and inquiry are fundamental to Tufts' academic pursuits;¹

WHEREAS Tufts' President Monaco has expressed the necessity of having a campus culture that protects the free and unfettered exchange of ideas, a deep concern of calls to silence speech on our university, the need to protect all points of view regardless of their unpopularity, and the need to respond to offensive speech with more speech rather than censorship;²

WHEREAS Title IX is intended to protect students from sex discrimination, not to regulate the content of students' speech;³

WHEREAS Students Advocating for Students has identified 8 free speech violations in Tufts' Sexual Misconduct Policy: the prohibition of inappropriate communications via letters, telephone calls, emails, or texts; sexual jokes or describing of sexual conduct; comments on an individual's body or appearance; comments about sexual activity or experiences; innuendos of a sexual nature; use of nicknames or terms of endearment; sexist statements or behavior; taunting slurs or other verbal conduct against those who are perceived to be failing to conform to expected notions of masculinity or femininity;⁴

WHEREAS Students Advocating for Students has identified 4 free speech violations in Tufts' Sexual Misconduct Brochure: the prohibition of gender bias; verbal conduct that creates an offensive environment in which to work; making statements that convey insulting or degrading attitudes or opinions based on gender; making sexually explicit jokes or statements;⁵

WHEREAS Students Advocating for Students has identified 3 free speech violations in Tufts' Bias Incident Reporting Procedures, as the following may lead to disciplinary punishment: taunting; slurs, epithets, or biased-fueled jokes; derogatory language or negative images;⁶

WHEREAS Students Advocating for Students has identified 3 free speech violations in Tufts' Guide to On-Campus Living: the prohibition of speech that creates emotional harm; hostile or inappropriate language, inappropriate gestures, or hurtful words; and acts of intolerance and hate;⁷

WHEREAS Students Advocating for Students has identified 1 free speech violation in Tufts' Student Code of Conduct policy: the prohibition of speech that is not becoming of a Tufts' student;⁸

WHEREAS Students Advocating for Students has identified 1 free speech violation in Tufts' Email Policy: the prohibition of sending offensive emails;⁹ therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the TCU Senate urge the administration to grant Tufts' students rights to free speech as is given to college students at public institutions as a result of the First Amendment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCU Senate urge the administration to alter the above identified policies, and all other similar campus policies, that we the students believe to be in violation of our free speech rights under the First Amendment.

Respectfully submitted by Jake Goldberg A19, (Plus all additional signatures) on _____, 2016.

1. <http://trustees.tufts.edu/policies/expression/>
2. <http://president.tufts.edu/blog/2015/01/14/free-speech-on-tufts-campus/>
3. <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/shguide.html>
4. <http://oeo.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/Sexual-Misconduct-Sexual-Assault-Policy-081414.pdf>
5. <http://oeo.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/Sexual-Misconduct-Brochure.pdf>
6. <https://students.tufts.edu/student-affairs/what-we-help/promoting-diversity-and-equality/report-incident - List>
7. <https://ase.tufts.edu/reslife/documents/habitats.pdf>
8. <http://students.tufts.edu/student-affairs/student-life-policies/code-conduct>
9. <https://it.tufts.edu/email-pol>