

Freedom of Speech Annual Report Template (2024)

As indicated in the December 14, 2018 and September 12, 2018 memos from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, each of Ontario's publicly-assisted colleges and universities is to prepare an annual report on the implementation of a free speech policy. Please use this template; you may append additional documents or institution-specific information as you see fit.

The institutional Freedom of Speech Annual Report will be a public document and should respect privacy obligations. Please report on events or incidents that took place between **August 1, 2023** and **July 31, 2024**.

The reports are to be posted on the institution's website and submitted to the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) by **September 3, 2024**.

Please submit your institution's annual report and the link to its location on your website to submissions@heqco.ca. Please reach out to HEQCO at the same address with any questions.

Section A: Institutional Policy

You may append additional documentation or institution-specific information as you see fit.

Has your institution amended its free speech policy (or policy framework) since the time of your 2023 report? If so, please explain the reason for the change and provide the link to its location on your institutional website.

<p>Brock's Freedom of Expression Policy has not been amended since the time of Brock's 2023 report. The Policy is available on the University's policy website (here) and is also available on the University's dedicated free speech webpage (here).</p>

Where are members of the institutional community (or guests) directed when there is a free-speech-related question or complaint about an institutional event? Please provide contact information.

Any concerns or questions regarding Brock's Freedom of Expression Policy, including any complaints filed under the Policy, are directed to the University Secretariat at universitysecretary@brocku.ca. For more information, see the Freedom of Expression Complaint Procedures at: https://brocku.ca/policies/wp-content/uploads/sites/94/Freedom_of_Expression_Complaint_Procedures.pdf or visit the general FAQ and contact webpage at: <https://brocku.ca/free-speech/faq-supports/>

What is your institution's policy on holding events where there are security concerns? To your knowledge, were there any instances where a non-curricular event did not proceed due to security concerns or their related costs?

Brock University prides itself on providing a safe work and learning environment for all members of the University community. Campus Safety Services plays a key role in planning and managing the safety and security of on-campus events. The University assesses the security risks and implications of any on-campus event as part of its event management processes. For student events, security concerns are assessed through the Student Event Risk Management process and if necessary, cost recovery would be built into event planning and approval (though this has not been necessary to date). For large-scale events organized by student associations, the student associations may arrange security if they determine it to be necessary. For community events run by third parties on Brock's campus, the third party may be required to provide their own security, in coordination with Brock's own campus safety services. To date, the University has not passed on security costs associated with events on campus and is not aware of any instances where a noncurricular event did not proceed due to security concerns or their related costs.

Section B: Complaints

You may append additional documentation or institution-specific information as you see fit.

Between **August 1, 2023** and **July 31, 2024**, did any member of the institutional community (or guests) make an official complaint about free speech? If yes, please provide a general description that protects the privacy of complainants.

No official complaints were received between August 1, 2023, and July 31, 2024.

If there has been an official complaint (or more than one):

What were the issues under consideration? Please identify any points of contention (e.g., security costs, safety, student unions and/or groups, operational requirements, etc.).

N/A

How did the institution manage the free speech complaint(s)? Was the complaint addressed using the procedures set out in the policy? How were issues resolved?

N/A

Section C: Summary Data

Please provide the following summary data for free-speech-related official complaints received by the institution:

Number of official complaints received under the free speech policy relating to curricular and non-curricular events.	0
Number of official complaints reviewed that did not proceed.	0
Number of official complaints where the institution determined that the free speech policy was not followed appropriately.	0
Number of official complaints under the free speech policy that resulted in the institution applying disciplinary or other institutional measures.	0
To your knowledge, were any free speech complaints forwarded to the Ontario Ombudsman?	Not to the University's knowledge

To the best of your ability, please provide an estimate of the number of **non-curricular events** held at the institution either online or in person between **August 1, 2023 and July 31, 2024**. Non-curricular events include, for example, invited speakers, sporting events, rallies, student life/student affairs events, conferences, etc., as opposed to regular events held as part of an academic program or course.

Due to the operational processes and systems of the University, it is difficult to definitively calculate the number of non-curricular events held on campus between August 1, 2023, and July 31, 2024. The numbers reported below are based on the University's room bookings system, as well as the Brock's ExperienceBU portal (which provides a registry of events, workshops, and co-curricular experiences available to Brock Students) and the Brock Sports records of sporting events. Due to the different systems involved, there may be some duplication in the events reported.

5,505 events were registered through the University's ExperienceBU portal, including **4,443** on-campus events. In addition, the University's room booking system recorded **1944** on campus events and Brock Sports reported **260** on campus sport-related events and activities, including both University sporting activities and external group facility rentals. Based on this, it is estimated that approximately **7,709** events were held on campus between August 1, 2023, and July 31, 2024.

Institutional Comments (if any).