**CAMPUS FREE SPEECH COMPLAINT PROCESS**

**Campus Free Speech**

The Board of Trustees passed a Resolution regarding campus free speech on June 23, 2022, adopting the public policy of the state of Ohio set out in Ohio Revised Code 3345.0215(B). The principles are:

(1) Students have a fundamental constitutional right to free speech.

(2) Youngstown State University is committed to giving students broad latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, learn, and discuss any issue, subject to Ohio Revised Code 3345.0215.

(3) Youngstown State University is committed to maintaining a campus as a marketplace of ideas for all students and all faculty in which the free exchange of ideas is not to be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University’s community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical, or wrong-headed.

(4) It is for the University’s students and faculty to make judgments about ideas for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress free speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose.

(5) It is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals from free speech, including ideas and opinions they find offensive, unwise immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical, or wrong-headed.

(6) Although the University greatly values civility and mutual respect, concerns about civility and mutual respect shall never be used by the University as a justification for closing off the discussion of ideas, however offensive, unwise, immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal traditional radical, or wrong-headed those ideas may be to some students or faculty.

(7) Although all students and all faculty are free to state their own views about and content the views expressed on campus, and to state their own views about and content speakers who are invited to express their views on campus, they may not substantially obstruct or otherwise substantially interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe. To this end, the university has a responsibility to promote a lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation and protect that freedom.

(8) The University is committed to providing an atmosphere that is most conducive to speculation, experimentation, and creation by all students and all faculty, who shall always remain free to inquire, to study and to evaluate, and to gain new understanding.

(9) The primary responsibility of faculty is to engage an honest, courageous, and persistent effort to search out and communicate the truth that lies in the areas of their competence.

Nothing contained in the Policy shall be construed as prohibiting the University from imposing measures that do not violate the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Sections 3 and 11 of the Ohio Constitution such as:

(1) Constitutional time, place, and manner restrictions;

(2) Reasonable and viewpoint-neutral restrictions in nonpublic forums;

(3) Restricting the use of the University’s property to protect the free speech rights of students and teachers and preserve the use of the property for the advancement of the University’s mission;

(4) Prohibiting or limiting speech, expression, or assemblies that are not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article 1, Sections 3 and 11 of the Ohio Constitution;

(5) Content restrictions on speech that are reasonably related to a legitimate pedagogical purpose, such as classroom rules enacted by teachers.

Further, the University has created a process under which a student, student group, or faculty member may submit a complaint about an alleged violation by an employee of the University established under this section, including any penalty imposed on a student’s grade for an assignment or coursework that is unrelated to ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance, including any legitimate pedagogical concerns, and is instead based on the contents of student’s free speech.

A complaint can be submitted by using the [Campus Free Speech Complaint Form](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?YoungstownStateUniv&layout_id=32).

The process for reviewing complaints shall comply with standards adopted by the Chancellor of the Department of Higher Education and include an investigation of the alleged violation and a fair and impartial hearing regarding the alleged violation.

Under the process, the state institution of higher education will investigate the alleged violation and conduct a fair and impartial hearing regarding the alleged violation. If the hearing determines the state institution of higher education’s policy was violated, the board of trustees shall determine a resolution to address the violation and prevent any further violation of the University policy.