

MARYWOOD STUDENTS FOR FREE SPEECH

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Week of February 12, 2007

Other Campuses:

February 7, 2007

FIRE President Greg Lukianoff [opined](#) on the Orwellian nature of Michigan State University's (MSU's) Student Accountability in Community (SAC) program in today's issue of *The Detroit News*. In December, FIRE [publicly challenged](#) MSU to dismantle the SAC program, which forces students whose behaviors or attitudes are considered unacceptable to undergo mandatory ideological reeducation at their own expense. MSU [told FIRE](#) it would review the program, but as of now it is still in place. In today's editorial, Lukianoff reiterated that the SAC program is an unconstitutional violation of students' right to freedom of conscience, and that it must be abolished. See: www.thefire.org for this story and more cases.

Martin Luther King Jr.:

"Many people fear nothing more terribly than to take a position which stands out sharply and clearly from the prevailing opinion. The tendency of most is to adopt a view that is so ambiguous that it will include everything and so popular that it will include everybody. Not a few men who cherish lofty and noble ideas hide them under a bushel for fear of being called different."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Strength to Love

NB: Regarding "What YOU Can Do": No RA affiliated with MSFFS is giving permission to post alcohol related signs.

Our Proposal

Having thoroughly reviewed Marywood's existing policy for free speech rights, we have come up with a very straightforward proposal that will enshrine free speech rights at Marywood in a way that protects the rights of students and faculty while preserving Marywood's distinct institutional identity. Our proposal has two simple steps:

1) Marywood claims to adhere to the American Association of University Professors' *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students*. This statement is a very thoughtful proclamation of academic freedoms (though it only applies to students), and Marywood's administrators are wise to seek its guidance; however, Marywood's adherence to this statement must be clearly stated in the student handbook.

(You can find the statement in its entirety by going to: www.aaup.org ► Publications & Research ► AAUP Policy Documents and Reports ► Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students)

2) The *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students* provides a strong foundation for academic freedom on campus, but it has two weaknesses that Marywood must address. First off, it states clearly that schools "[have] an obligation to clarify those standards that it considers essential to its educational mission and its community life." Secondly, the statement also does not apply to faculty members and its protections must be extended to them outside of the classroom, as well. In order to prevent administrators from using Marywood's values or political correctness as an excuse to censor legitimate speech by students or faculty members that they disagree with, Marywood must thus clearly state that it believes the First Amendment of the US Constitution is the standard by which faculty and student speech and expression should be judged. Marywood should codify the following statement as official policy:

"Marywood University shall not make or enforce any rule subjecting any student or faculty member to disciplinary sanction solely on the basis of conduct that is speech or other communication that, when engaged in outside the Marywood campus, is protected from governmental restriction by the U.S. Constitution."

Brandenburg v. Ohio, [395 U.S. 444 \(1969\)](#), was a [United States Supreme Court](#) case based on the [First Amendment](#) to the [U.S. Constitution](#). It held that government cannot punish inflammatory speech unless it is directed to inciting and likely to incite [imminent lawless action](#). [Wikipedia]

FIRE on Campus

On February 26 at 8:40 pm in the Crystal Room, Luke Sheahan from FIRE (The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education) will speak on campus before what we hope will be a large campus crowd. The speech will outline the state of free speech on the nation's campuses and the heavy-handed role of administrators in suppressing speech.

The speech should be informative, fun, and inspirational. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have following the presentation.

To learn about FIRE, visit its website at www.thefire.org. We predict you will be amazed. **Note that FIRE is non-partisan and supports free speech for everyone**, i.e. it matters not whether the cause is "liberal" or "conservative" -- FIRE will take a stand for free speech.

Check Out Our Website!

www.marywoodfree.com
speech.com

And Our Facebook Group:

