

MARYWOOD STUDENTS FOR FREE SPEECH

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www.marywoodfreespeech.com

Week of April 23, 2007

Vote Your Mind!

Visit Dr. Fagal's Office LAC82 Before the End of the Day on Thursday, 4/26, to Vote for Your Speech Code Preference!

Students have been canvassing Marywood's residence halls to give all dorm students a chance to have their voices heard. (dorm students easier to organize ☺). We want to know if you believe that Marywood should have an open speech policy based on the First Amendment of the US Constitution or not (or abstain). If you have not yet had your chance to vote, please make sure your voice is heard by visiting Dr. Fagal's office in LAC82. All ballots are secret (anonymous), but those who vote are eligible to win cash prizes (the economist at work)!

Please visit our website and join our facebook.com group to stay informed and keep our cause alive!

WWW.MARYWOODFREESPEECH.COM

<http://marywood.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2221268984>

End of Semester Update: *Many Small Victories, But Our Job Is Not Done*

By: Bill Ziegelbauer

I would like to take a brief moment to thank all of the students and faculty who not only made our group the largest in Marywood's history, but who helped us use our common cause to educate Marywood's community about the troubles with Marywood's current speech policy. While this group has been quiet recently, rest assured that we have been working with Marywood's administration to make as much progress as possible on Marywood's speech policy this semester; however, there is still work to be done and new leaders must emerge to see it through.

To recount: after the Student Government Association unanimously passed the two parts of our proposal pertaining to student speech, the university's Student Life Committee took up the issue. The Student Life Committee then also passed our proposal to place the AAUP statement of student's rights and freedoms in the student handbook, but demurred on setting a First Amendment standard for student speech. Moreover, the committee decided that the new dean of students, when hired this summer, would have the task of formally investigating and proposing a clearer speech policy for Marywood's students.

This means that we have made great progress in a short time. Our group brought awareness to students who never dreamt that Marywood did not adhere to a First Amendment standard for speech on campus, and, as a result, Marywood's administrators began investigating the issue in good faith. While we can be heartened that we have come so far, it is important to remember that we have not yet achieved our goal because Marywood's speech policy (such as it is) does not clearly embrace free speech.

And thus our work is not over. It is up to the students and faculty in this group to keep pressure on Marywood's administration over the next two semesters to make sure that they follow through on their promise to clarify the speech policy. Beware, clarification can make things worse. We need a good policy. Though I am graduating, I will still offer help as I can, but it will be up to the current students to really keep our cause alive. You are the ones who will be most directly affected; you must continue to be proactive in defending and asserting **your** freedoms.

National Praise - Marywood Students for Free Speech

Our group worked very hard this last year to make a difference and Marywood's administrators heard our voice. Now, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) is sharing our story with the country through its new Campus Freedom Network (CFN).

The CFN is a private, online network that will provide student leaders special help and material support in advocating free speech. This community resource lets student leaders from all over the country share their experiences and connect with FIRE's free speech experts. Our group is honored to be one of the first model groups mentioned through this service.

Though our group has already been honored by the CFN, it is important that student leaders from Marywood remain active and involved in CFN activities. **If you would like to become a leader for free speech** and gain access to the resources of the CFN, **please email Bill Ziegelbauer** at wzielbauer@gmail.com **or email the CFN directly** at cfn@thefire.org.



To stay abreast of the latest free speech news from around the country, please be sure to visit www.thefire.org