

Marywood Students For Free Speech

Vol. 3 No. 1

www.marywoodfreespeech.com

Week of March 10, 2008

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

Fall '07 MU Survey

In December of 2007, Karl Franke and other Marywood student surveyors randomly approached almost 200 students with a very brief nine question survey to fill out secretly and "on the spot." Here are the results (the website marywoodfreespeech.com has full details):

60% of students say that they have been in a course where they think they have to agree with the professor to get a good grade.

45% have felt inhibited about expressing their ideas

75% want an independent newspaper or newsletter

84% did not know they gave up free speech rights by enrolling

45% said they would hand out flyers like this to prospective students

43% said they would consider transferring if Marywood punishes students for speech

59% did not like dorm rules restricting speech

59% think the dorm visitation rules are too restrictive

Analysis Point: The survey does NOT get at what percent of the Marywood professors cause some students to feel inhibited. Individual professors are not rated yet. In the works?

"But I Am not Political !! "

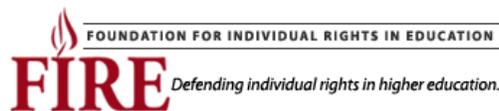
-but maybe you will be, and how about others?

As students consider their choice of colleges and universities, they often do not consider what is surrendered (besides money) when they enroll at an institution of "higher education."

If you give up the right to free speech you may find yourself unable to express your thoughts without getting into trouble. Many colleges and universities stifle free and open expression for the sake of "political correctness," under the assumption that "of course" no one should have to be "offended" by what they might hear or see or read....

This leads to what might be called a "Dictatorship of the Most Easily Offended" — one simply claims that he or she has been, or may be, "offended" by something --and the complainer can have that something or someone stifled! Self-styled "protectors of the weak" often see fit to inhibit your speech on behalf of the "weak." Power Trip anyone??

To see the extent of this problem around the nation, visit the FIRE website www.thefire.org FIRE is the highly respected Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.



Established in 2006 by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), the Campus Freedom Network (CFN) www.thecfn.org is an essential tool in the fight to protect individual rights at institutions of higher learning across the country. As a loosely-knit coalition of faculty members and students dedicated to advancing individual liberties on their campuses, the CFN provides resources and facilitates interaction and cooperation between members across the country to work together in new ways to more effectively defend fundamental liberties on campus.

Check it out !

Intimidation at Marywood Dean Torell's Aug 1, 2007 Letter to Prof. Frederick Fagal

-see the website for the original

Dear Dr. Fagal,

I write to record my concern regarding your expressed unwillingness to discuss the execution of the "Marywood U. No Speech Code – Free Speech Ballot/Survey- April 10

18 2007" during our meeting with Sister Margaret Gannon that occurred on April 19, 2007.

The questions you elected not to answer during that meeting included, but were not limited to (1) how the event of surveying the students in the dorms transpired, (2) whether you were the author of the survey, and (3) whether you believed that conducting the survey was within the purview of your duties.

At the beginning of the Fall 2007 Semester, and at your convenience, would you please make an appointment with my Secretary, Grace Rellis, so that we can continue our discussion on this subject.

Yours sincerely,
Kurt Torell, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences

Newbies' Catch Up Corner:

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