

MARYWOOD STUDENTS FOR FREE SPEECH

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www.marywoodfreespeech.com

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MU Students Battle for Free Speech: Seek to institute policy changes

Background History :

Free speech policies on this campus have undergone close scrutiny since early last year when Professor Fagal hung a Danish Mohammed cartoon on his office door (see the website for details). Students are aware that is not a free speech campus.

Many Marywood students support free speech rights on campus. These students realize that once speech can be limited, it is limited. An oppressive climate of "maybe I can't say this or do that" prevails. You can't even hang a beer sign or a wine logo on your door!



"Politically correct" speech rules the day, and one never knows its limits..

To remedy this situation the Student Government Association (SGA) has been hard at work. We expect the SGA will call for a clear restatement that Marywood supports student and faculty rights as laid out by the AAUP (Am. Assoc. Univ. Prof.). More important, the SGA is expected to call for a "Bill of Rights" type of declaration by Marywood. Just as our 1787 Constitution immediately needed a clear set of "Bill of Rights" amendments, so do we. See below.

Proposed Policy Change

"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."

Student Organizers: Over 300 Marywood students have stepped forward by joining the Facebook group "Marywood Students for Free Speech." Bill Ziegelbauer established the group and is its defacto leader. Facebook group administrators include : Sarah Bonser, Corey Ciresi, Eric Kovak, Neil Prisco, and Jeff Robinson.. Other students work behind the scenes. Student volunteers pass this out.

FIRE on Campus

On February 26 at 8:40 pm in the Crystal Room, a speaker 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. **Do 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.

"Why should I care?" *I am not political. I keep to myself. I study and have a job and a social life. I am not into politics or causes. As long as I am happy enough that's fine. Why should I get involved?*
A few replies to this might be:

1. You might change your mind in the future and want to speak your mind. Therefore, protect or gain rights for all now so you can use them in the future as needed
2. Even though you may never want to speak out, you may be pleased that others can clearly voice opinions with which you agree.
3. Even though you may never want to speak out, it may please you that anyone can voice opinions, even when you strongly disagree with such opinions.
4. Some brief examples (you decide how to categorize them as liberal or conservative and whether those notions really come into play here): How about producing the Vagina Monologues Play or supporting abortion as an option? How about the rule where you can't have alcohol posters in a dorm room? How about the notion that you are worried to say what you think about the "xxx group or policy" because you might be accused of harassment?
5. No matter what you currently believe, your time at Marywood will be greatly enriched by an academic atmosphere that allows a robust debate. College is supposed to be the ultimate bastion of free inquiry -- why should a university operate under a scheme that limits the very ideal of academic freedom justifying its existence?

What YOU can do-

1. Visit the website.
2. Attend the FIRE speech and bring a friend.— agree to go together..
3. *Think* – then if you agree:
4. Join the Facebook group.
5. Talk to friends !
6. Tell others (parents ? prospects?) about the state of free speech on campus.
7. VOTE in the Referendum we expect to have (dates to be announced).
8. Display an updated [tba] version of the "Free Speech May Offend" Poster (see website). Modify it!
9. Stay informed via the website and/or get free speech e-mail updates (see website).
10. Post a Blue Nun wine label on your dorm door, bluenunwines.com
11. Volunteer. Fear not speaking...

Visit Our Website!

**www.marywoodfree
speech.com**