

**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF FREE  
EXPRESSION POLICY**

*Approved by Administrative Council 9/30/19*

*Effective date 9/30/19*

This statement articulates the University's commitment to free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberation among all members of the University community. The statement is an abridged



The University's fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate, or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the RUHS community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong. It is for the individual members of the RUHS community, not for RUHS as an institution, to make those judgments for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose without ad hominem, personal attacks. The ability of the RUHS community to engage in such debate and deliberation in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the University's educational mission.

In addition to the University's commitment to protect and promote free expression, members of the RUHS community must also act in conformity with the principle of free expression. Although members of the RUHS community are free to criticize and contest those who express on campus, and to criticize and contest speakers who are invited to express their views on campus, they may not obstruct or otherwise interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe. Indeed, RUHS has a responsibility not only to promote a lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation, but also to protect that freedom when others attempt to restrict it.