

# DISSENT

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# Key Resolutions

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- Adoption the Chicago Principles (Resolution #5)
- Change Faculty Handbook to Mimic the Chicago Principles (Resolution #6)
- Recommend Board of Trustees adopt the Chicago Principles (Resolution #7)

# Academic Freedom @ Northeastern University

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## Existing Policy

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**Statement on Free Expression:** A foundational principle of Northeastern University is that a global, multicultural, diverse and inclusive community is vital to learning, discovery, and innovation at the highest levels of human endeavor. Further, we believe that an institution of higher learning has a responsibility to foster a community that protects and supports free expression, welcomes open dialogue on critical issues, and maintains an inclusive educational environment where diverse views can be safely expressed and debated by community members **in an atmosphere of civility and mutual respect.**

## Chicago Principles

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Of course, the ideas of different members of the University community will often and quite naturally conflict. But it is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Although the University greatly values civility, and although all members of the University community share in the responsibility for maintaining a climate of mutual respect, **concerns about civility and mutual respect can never be used as a justification for closing off discussion of ideas**, however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of our community.



# Existing Policy vs. Chicago Principles

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- Should **civility & mutual respect** continue to play a role in our policy? **YES!**

1. Faculty highly value civility

2. Diverse views thrive with civility

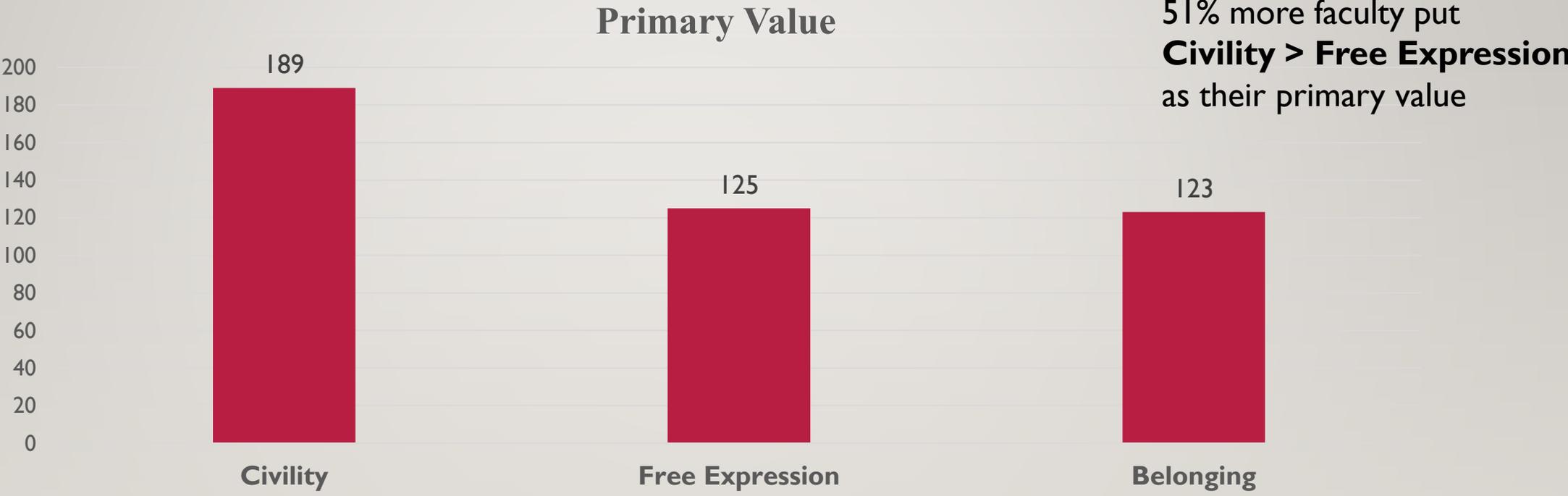
# FACULTY VIEWS ON CIVILITY

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# FACULTY VALUES: Civility vs Free Expression

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# FACULTY VALUES: Primary value by college

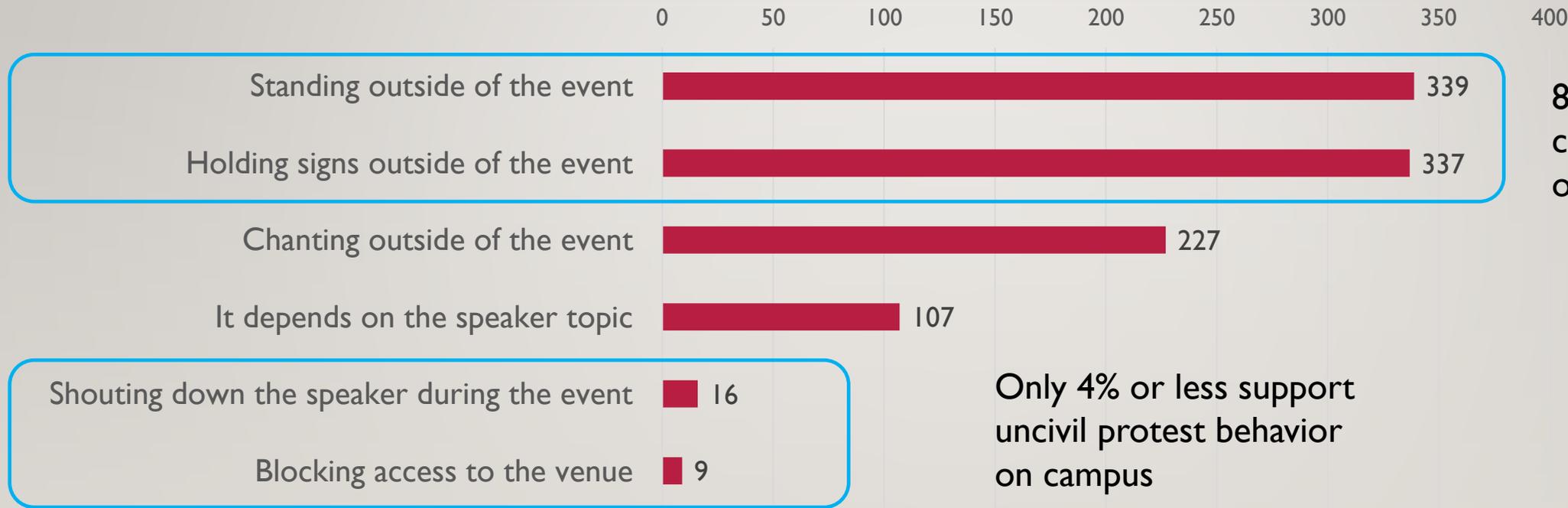
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6 out of 10 colleges at  
Northeastern place  
Civility > Free Expression

College	Civility	Free Expression	Belonging
College of Science	37.5	29.5	21.5
College of Engineering	35	12.5	12.5
Bouvé College of Health Sciences	30.5	11.5	17
College of Social Sciences and Humanities	27	22.5	23
D'Amore-McKim School of Business	25.5	8	15.5
College of Arts, Media and Design	13.5	16	16
College of Professional Studies	9	5	5
Khoury College of Computer Sciences	6.5	8.5	8
Mills College at Northeastern	1.5	5.5	0
School of Law	1	4	3.5

# FACULTY VALUES: Protests

## Appropriate Actions with Speaker on Controversial Topic

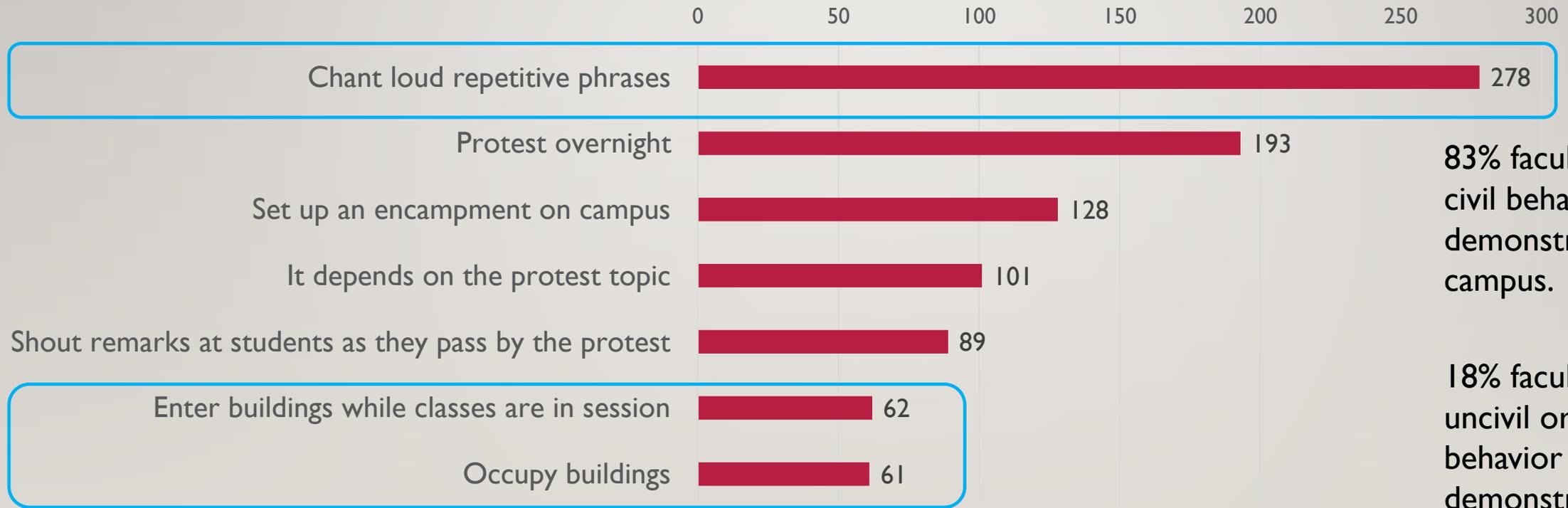


88% faculty support civil protest behavior on campus.

Only 4% or less support uncivil protest behavior on campus

# FACULTY VALUES: Demonstrations

## Appropriate Actions during Demonstration on Campus



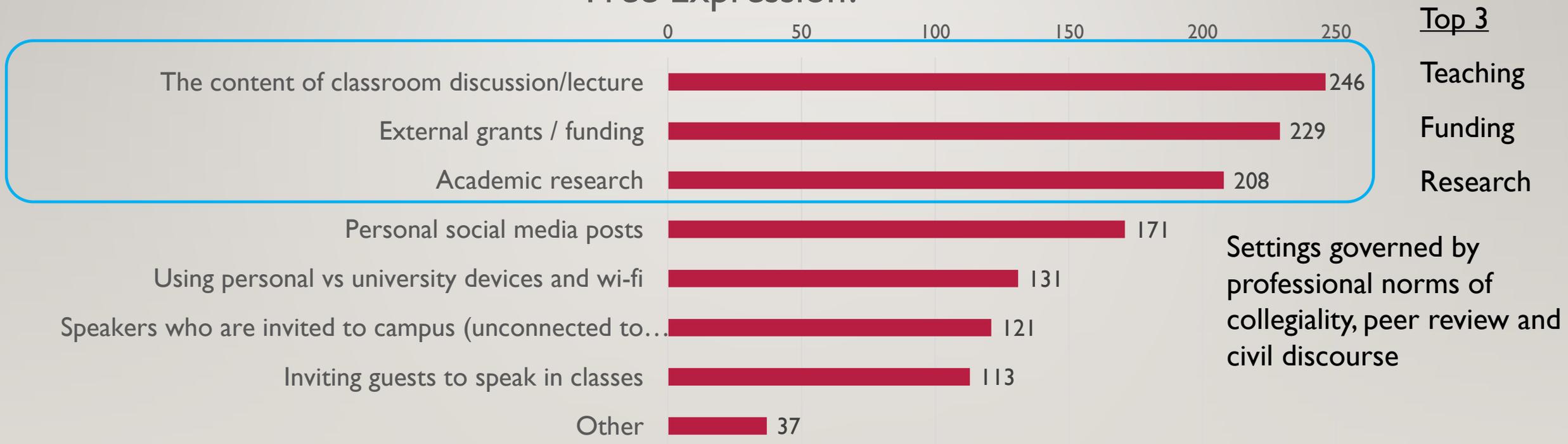
83% faculty support civil behavior during demonstrations on campus.

18% faculty support uncivil or disruptive behavior during demonstrations on campus.



# FACULTY VALUES: Academic Freedom in Context

Where are Faculty Concerned about Academic Freedom & Free Expression?



# FACULTY VALUES: Academic Freedom in Context

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Academic freedom = Freedom to teach

Freedom to do research

Freedom to pursue funding without interference

*Civility matters to faculty.*

An aerial, grayscale photograph of a rural landscape. A winding river flows through the center, surrounded by numerous rectangular fields and some buildings. The overall scene is peaceful and agricultural.

# DIVERSE VIEWS THRIVE WITH CIVILITY

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# Why Civility Matters for Free Expression

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- Civility separates debate from harassment and intimidation
- Without basic norms: the loudest, most aggressive and most extreme behavior will draw the most attention and get to set the agenda
- Discussion becomes a contest of intimidation, not ideas

Free expression without civil parameters does not create more speech –  
it changes *who is able to speak*.

# Incivility Reduces Speech

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Removing expectations of civility produces the opposite of intellectual diversity:

- Individuals with minority or unpopular view self-censor
- Loudest voices dominate participation
- Campus becomes less intellectually pluralistic

Civility protects expression – it does not restrict it.

# Institutional Responsibility

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Universities teach students to:

- Persuade
- Deliberate
- Disagree constructively

Without norms, students learn instead to:

- Shout
- Disrupt
- Dominate

Civility is part of our educational mission, not a limit on it.



# Current Policies cover Part-time & International faculty

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- Part-time Faculty
  - Covered by the SEIU Local 509 collective bargaining agreement
  - Article 5 grants academic freedom on the **same basis as all full-time faculty**
- London Campus Faculty
  - Governed by a formal Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech
  - Required under UK law and long in place
- Canada Faculty
  - Governed by same university policies as US-based faculty unless explicitly stated otherwise
  - Free Expression and Academic Freedom are not listed among the exceptions

Academic freedom protections already exist across faculty categories and campuses.



# VOTE NO on Chicago Statement

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- Let's not change our current policy on Free Speech
- Current policy
  - Aligns with faculty values
  - Creates an environment conducive to more speech (not less)
- Vote NO on Resolutions #5, 6, 7 (Chicago Statement)
- Vote NO on Resolution #8 (study Academic Freedom for Faculty outside Handbook)



**THANK YOU**

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