



January 7, 2020

The Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor of Virginia
Post Office Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23518

The Honorable Stephen D. Newman
Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Health
Senate of Virginia
Post Office Box 396
Pocahontas Building, Room E604
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable R. Steve Landes
Chairman of the House Committee on Education
Virginia House of Delegates
Post Office Box 406
Pocahontas Building, Room W1304
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Governor Northam, Chairman Newman and Chairman Landes:

This report is being submitted in compliance with § 23.1-401.1 (D) of the Code of Virginia. This letter/report details Old Dominion University's implementation of § 23.1-401.1 entitled Constitutionally protected speech; policies, materials, and reports; report." This report is also included on the ***Student Freedom of Speech and Activism*** website at <https://www.odu.edu/life/dean-students/free-speech> .

The following measures have been taken during the most recent reporting period ending December 1, 2019, to adhere to the above-referenced law:

- Providing education to incoming students in University orientation programs.
- Establishing a University team (Freedom of Expression Team) including faculty and student representation to promote the education on related topics.
- Maintaining a website, (***Student Freedom of Speech and Activism***), which describes freedom of speech, refers to related policies and describes the means to report incidents, where freedom of speech has been disrupted.
- Providing those responsible for the discipline and education of students training and education regarding freedom of speech and related policy, through **University leadership, and department level retreats.**

Division of Student Engagement & Enrollment Services
Office of the Vice President
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- Updated the University Board of Visitors Policy on Student Rights and Freedoms, (See below policy).
- Educating and engaging student leadership to address related freedom of speech issues. For instance, our student leadership (SGA) engaged in a campaign to promote freedom of speech with a video for our student body.

In Response to Code of Virginia § 23.1-401.1 (D) 1

For University policies as described in § 23.1-401.1 (B), please refer to the following websites:

Gun & Weapon Regulation

Board of Visitors Policy 1014 -Threat Assessment

Board of Visitors Policy 1403 - Academic Freedom

Board of Visitors Policy 1502 - Student Rights and Freedoms

Board of Visitors Policy 1530- Code of Student Conduct

University Policy 1005 -Discrimination Policy

University Policy 3200 -Use of Facilities and Grounds

Event Management Policies and Protocol

University Policy 1700- University Demonstrations Policy

Student Organization Handbook , (includes procedure for students for reserving space and planning events)

Board of Visitors Policy 1011- Freedom of Expression

For access to materials on above policies as described in § 23.1-401.1 (C), please refer to the following websites.

University Faculty Handbook <http://ww2.odu.edu/ao/facultyhandbook/facultyhandbook.pdf>.

As previously stated, the ***Student Freedom of Speech and Activism*** Website at <https://www.odu.edu/life/dean-students/free-speech>, identifies related policies, as well as the Dean of Students as the point of contact for reporting incidents of disruption.

In Response to Code of Virginia § 23.1-401.1 (D) 2

Please find attached certification of compliance with § 23.1-401.1 (C).

In Response to Code of Virginia § 23.1-401.1 (D) 3

There have been no complaints filed to initiate a lawsuit against Old Dominion University or an employee of the institution, for an alleged violation of the First Amendment.

I appreciate your acceptance and review of this report. Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 757-683-6702

Sincerely yours,



Traci Daniels, Special Assistant to the Vice President
Division of Student Engagement & Enrollment Services



Certification of § 23.1-401.1 Constitutionally protected speech; policies, materials and reports; report

I hereby acknowledge that Old Dominion University is in compliance with Section C:

“Each public institution of higher education shall develop materials on the policies established pursuant to subsection B and notify any employee who is responsible for the discipline or education of enrolled students of such materials.”

Dr. Don Stansberry, Interim Vice President
Division of Student Engagement & Enrollment Services

Date