

December 2, 2024

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
Post Office Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

The Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi
Chair of the Virginia Senate Education and Health Committee
P.O. Box 396
Richmond, Virginia 23218

The Honorable Sam Rasoul
Chair of the House Committee on Education
P.O. Box 13842
Roanoke, VA 24037

Dear Governor Youngkin, Chairwoman Hashmi, and Chairman Rasoul:

This report is being submitted in compliance with 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 www.odu.edu/sees/free-speech.

During this reporting cycle, we have reviewed policies to be updated based on the University policy review schedule. This year, we continued to promote our freedom of expression resource website to inform our student body. Students were also provided information and resources regarding freedom of speech as we continue to promote the use of our freedom of expression website. Our freedom of expression team meets monthly to assess campus need and determine opportunities for education. We continue to provide platforms for students to express their views on topics involving politics and social justice.

Specifically, the following measures have been taken during the most recent reporting period ending December 1, 2024, to adhere to the above-referenced law:

- Updated the 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. It now includes up to date contact information for key stakeholders.
- Provided all students with information on freedom of expression and a link to the website with free speech resources for students.
- Sent an email to all students encouraging them to exercise their right to free speech, direct them to our online resources, and provide them with a contact email to communicate with directly.

In Response to Code of Virginia § 23.1-401.1 B and C

In addition to the above-described educational efforts, the University uses websites so that the University community (including students) have access to current policy.

- University Teaching & Research Faculty Handbook: <https://www.odu.edu/human-resources/employees/handbooks/faculty/odu-teaching-research-faculty-handbook>. The faculty handbook includes the following policies that are also cited below:
 - Statement on Freedom of Expression (p.173)
 - Policy on Title IX and Sexual Misconduct (p. 211)
 - Discrimination Policy (p. 212)
 - Use of Facilities and Grounds (p. 350)
 - Gun & Weapon Regulation (p.366)
 - Threat Assessment (p.288)
 - University Demonstrations Policy (p.368)
- As previously stated, the *Student Freedom of Speech and Activism* Website at www.odu.edu/sees/free-speech identifies related policies, as resources pertaining to free speech. The website also identifies the Executive Director for Student Engagement & Traditions as the point of contact for reporting incidents or concerns involving the disruption of such constitutionally protected speech.

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 1502 - Student Rights and Freedoms](#)
- [Board of Visitors Policy 1530- Code of Student Conduct](#)
- [University Policy 1005 -Discrimination Policy](#)
- University Policy 1008 – Title IX and Sexual Misconduct
- [University Policy 3200 -Use and Keying of Facilities and Grounds](#)
- [University Policy 1700 – University Demonstrations Policy](#)
- [University Policy 1011 – Freedom of Expression](#)
- [Event Management Policies and Protocol](#)
- [Student Organization Handbook](#) (includes student procedures for reserving space and planning events)

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. I am also providing a hard copy of this document, along with a copy of the policies cited. Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 757-683-3446.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Winstead Reichner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" being the most prominent.

Katie Winstead Reichner, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Student Engagement & Traditions
Division of Student Enrollment, Engagement and Services