

Hello and good day, my esteemed colleagues and friends.

First and foremost, thank you for this space and platform to hear/share our voices, and I humbly apologize for not being able to be there to speak in person, as I am teaching during this time.

I want to make very clear, I am not attempting to limit free speech in any way. I know that legally, philosophically and ethically, that is not promoting an open and mature discussion, and we should not be attempting to limit free speech, especially in these current tumultuous times, and most assuredly not at an institute for higher education.

However, I also want to address the 'elephant in the room' so to speak. This is not a free speech issue, and it is not about disagreeing with political ideologies. This is a student safety and trust issue. I strongly encourage and invite you all to research/review Stochastic Terrorism, as originally defined by risk analyst Dr. Gordon Woo and used in anti-terrorism security work, as well as The Paradox of Tolerance originally defined by the philosopher Karl Popper in his 1945 book *The Open Society and Its Enemies*.

According to our own President Lundberg, "We are not only here to provide educational opportunities, but to also tend to the whole student – not just their brains...because helping the whole person is compassion, not politics. Caring for people is not political, and it should be a goal for all of us regardless of social values and political views." With that in mind, imagine you are a student here, and—as many of you sitting here today—you are also an immigrant, a person of color, a woman, a member of the LBGTQ+ community, and you have been told repeatedly that this campus is a safe space. In fact, we have signs everywhere saying, "You are safe here" as well as workshops about knowing your rights.

But then you arrive and see certain organizations posted up in our 'free speech' area, not only promoting and applauding hateful rhetoric under the guise of 'free speech,' specifically directed against you, but also actively recruiting people from this campus for their 'mission', a campus that you have been told is a safe space. Would you still feel safe? Would you still hold trust for and faith in this campus, this institution? As someone who the students regularly confide in, I can tell you the answer is profoundly no.

I am not asking for anyone to attempt to limit free speech. What I am hoping for is that we will come together for the safety and trust of our students, staff, faculty and friends, recapture the 'free speech' legalese narrative, and find a way to move forward together to find proactive ways to protect our most vulnerable students before we may be forced to be reactive because somebody gets hurt. As someone who grew up in a family of Holocaust survivors as well as Native/Indigenous cousins, I can assure you this should be our imperative, before it becomes too late.

Thank you for your time, energy and consideration in this matter.

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