

CSM Senate Free Speech Resolution
The University of Massachusetts Boston
April 11th, 2022

Whereas, College of Science and Mathematics Senate firmly supports academic freedom and free speech on campus; and

Whereas, the free speech policy statement produced by the Committee for Freedom of Expression at the University of Chicago has become a model for many universities' affirmations of free speech and academic freedom across the country since its publication in 2015 ¹; and

Whereas, the Chicago Statement has been adopted or endorsed by a growing number of faculty bodies and institutions across the United States; therefore

Be it Resolved that the College of Science and Mathematics Senate endorses the following statement on freedom of expression, adapted from the University of Chicago statement:

Because the UMass Boston College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) Senate is committed to free and open inquiry in all matters, it guarantees all members the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn. Except insofar as limitations on that freedom are necessary to the functioning of the College, CSM Senate fully respects and supports the freedom of all members of the College community to discuss any problem that presents itself.

Of course, the ideas of different members of the collegiate community will often and quite naturally conflict. But it is not the proper role of the Senate to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Although the Senate greatly values civility, and although all members of the College 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.

CSM Senate may restrict expression that violates the law, that falsely defames a specific individual, that constitutes a genuine threat or harassment, that unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests, or that is otherwise directly incompatible with the College's functioning. The College retains the commensurate right to regulate reasonably the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt any ordinary College activities. But these regulations and exceptions should not unreasonably compromise the Senate's commitment to a completely free and open discussion of ideas.

As a corollary to CSM Senate's commitment to protect and promote free expression, members of the College community must also act in conformity with the principle of free expression. Although members of the College community are free to criticize and contest the views expressed on campus, they may not obstruct or otherwise interfere with the freedom of others

to express views they reject or even loathe. To this end, the Senate has a solemn 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.

¹ For the full text of the Chicago Principles, please see the following: respectively:

<https://provost.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FOECommitteeReport.pdf>
