

**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF FREE
EXPRESSION POLICY**

Approved by Administrative Council 9/30/19

Effective date 9/30/19

This statement articulates the University's commitment to free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberation among all members of the University community. The statement is an abridged and adapted version of the statement published by the University of Chicago in 2015.

Roseman University of Health Sciences (RUHS) is committed to free and open inquiry in all matters. It guarantees all members of the University community the widest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn. Except insofar as limitations on that freedom are necessary to the functioning of the University, RUHS fully respects and supports the freedom of all members of the RUHS community "to discuss any problem that presents itself."

The ideas of different members of the RUHS community will sometimes and quite naturally conflict. However, it is not the proper role of the University or its leaders to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Moreover, however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of the University community all members of the RUHS community, and any external speakers are responsible for maintaining a climate of civilized mutual respect.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competitive ideas does not mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. RUHS 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 functioning of the institution. In addition, RUHS may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt the ordinary activities of the University. However, these are narrow exceptions to the general principle of freedom of expression, and it is vitally important that these exceptions never be used in a manner that is inconsistent with the University's commitment to a completely free and open discussion of ideas.

The University's fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate, or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the RUHS community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed. It is for the individual members of the RUHS community, not for RUHS as an institution, to make those judgments for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose without ad hominem, personal attacks. The ability of the RUHS community to engage in such debate and deliberation in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the University's educational mission.

In addition to the University's commitment to protect and promote free expression, members of the RUHS community must also act in conformity with the principle of free expression.

Although members of the RUHS community are free to criticize and contest the views expresses on campus, and to criticize and contest speakers who are invited to express their views on campus, they may not obstruct or otherwise interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe. Indeed, RUHS 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.