

Free Speech on Campus: What is Changing and What Remain the Same



Frederick M. Lawrence

Secretary and CEO, The Phi Beta Kappa Society

Distinguished Lecturer in Law, Georgetown University

Responding constructively to challenges
of free expression:

Articulating First Principles

Free Expression and the Mission of the University

- 📌 “Creation and Discovery of Knowledge and Transmission of that Knowledge for the Betterment of Society through our teaching and scholarship”
- 📌 “Preparing the next generation of leaders, scholars and citizens”
- 📌 “Enter to learn, leave to serve”

First Principles of Free Expression on Campus

- 📄 Principle I – Presumption of Free Expression
- 📄 Principle II – Setting the Boundaries of Free Expression – rebutting the presumption
- 📄 Principle III – The Moral Obligation to Speak

Three Rules of Vigorous Civility

- ❏ Disagree without Delegitimizing
- ❏ Challenge ideas, not motives (at least initially)
- ❏ The forced search for common ground