



Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature on the Status of Campus Free Expression

August 28, 2023

Pursuant to Act 666 of the 2018 Regular Session and Act 727 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana Legislature, codified at R.S. 17:3399.31 through 3399.37

Each institution shall annually submit a report to the governor and the legislature regarding any barriers to or incidents against free expression that occurred at the institution. The report shall detail the barrier or incident as well as actions taken in response to the barrier or incident. If an institution is sued for an alleged violation of a right guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, the institution shall submit a supplementary report with a copy of the complaint to the governor and the state legislature within thirty days of receipt of the complaint. Each institution shall post all reports pursuant to this Section on its website.

Barriers to or Incidents Against Free Expression During the 2022-2023 Academic Year

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) fully committed to meeting the requirements outlined in Acts 666 and 727 by developing a comprehensive System-wide policy on campus free expression and coordinating the development of college policies on campus free expression. LCTCS collaborated with the Board of Regents and the other three Systems of higher education to revise our System and college policies to align with Act 727 from the 2022 Regular Legislative Session. All LCTCS member colleges have complied with updates to their college policies. As of August 1, 2023, there were no reported barriers to or incidents against free expression at any LCTCS member college for the 2022-2023 academic year. This report will be posted to the LCTCS website.

Training

LCTCS Board staff provided training on LCTCS Policy #2.018 for college staff. Initial training occurred on March 1, 2019. The training was a one-day, in-person workshop. Each college sent a minimum of 4 attendees to the workshop (an employee within the Student Affairs Division, the Academic Affairs Division, Human Resources, and Campus Security/Facilities). Certificates of completion were provided to those who attended the workshop. LCTCS continues to update and train Chief Student Affairs Officers and other Student Affairs staff as needed and with each state law and policy revision.

For sustained and continuous training, the 2019 workshop was converted into an online, self-paced course through Canvas, LCTCS's online learning platform. The following topics are covered in all LCTCS free expression training: a general overview of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the types of expression covered and not covered; Act 666 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature; LCTCS Policy #2.018; free expression in higher education case studies; and best practices in college process and procedure. The online Canvas Course is currently under revision to include parameters codified in Act 727.

The online course is made available to Student Government Association (SGA) representatives and any other student leader recommended by student organization advisors. Providing this information to student leaders will empower them to educate their fellow students about the rights afforded to them and the necessity of time, place, and manner limitations.

Subsequent Free Expression Reports

Pursuant to LCTCS Policy #2.018, each LCTCS college shall continue to submit a report on an annual basis by August 1 to the LCTCS System Office. Annual reports will include any barriers to or incidents against free expression that occurred at the institution during the previous academic year. The report shall detail the barrier or incident as well as actions taken in response to the barrier or incident. If an institution is sued for an alleged violation of a right guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, the institution shall submit to the LCTCS a supplementary report with a copy of the complaint within thirty days of receipt of the complaint. The System Office will submit all reports related to campus free expression to the Governor and the Legislature on behalf of its member institutions by January 1 of each year.