



TO: Board of Regents  
FROM: Regent Mark VanDriel  
DATE: September 12, 2024  
RE: Recommended Changes to Regent Policy 1.D: Freedom of Expression

This item proposes amending Regent Policy 1.D to: (1) apply to digital spaces controlled by the campuses; (2) require, to the extent not already governed by campus policy, university students speaking or writing as citizens to make every effort to indicate that their expression is their own and does not represent the opinion or position of the university; and (3) require university faculty, staff, and students, when writing as citizens on matters of public concern within digital spaces controlled by the campus, to specifically include a disclaimer clarifying that the work does not represent the opinion, belief, or position of the university.

Currently, Regent Policy 1.D.3.(D)(3) and (E)(2) require faculty and staff speaking or writing as citizens to “make every effort to indicate that their expression is their own and does not represent the opinion or position of the university...” For students, this requirement does not currently exist in regent policy. The proposed changes would extend this requirement to students, to the extent not governed by campus policy. Additionally, the proposed changes would require faculty, staff, and students, when writing as citizens on matters of political, academic, artistic, or social concern, alone or as a group, within digital spaces controlled by the campus, to specifically state that the work does not represent the opinion, belief, or position of the university.

Pursuant to Regent Policy 2.N, these proposed changes to Regent Policy 1.D were discussed by the Governance Committee on March 21, 2024, and received Notice of Motion on the April 11-12, 2024, Board meeting agenda. The proposed changes were further discussed by the Governance Committee at its May 23, 2024, and August 22, 2024, meetings. Accordingly, the proposed changes to Regent Policy 1.D can be considered for a vote by the full board at the September 12-13, 2024, Board of Regents meeting.