From: Natasha Abrahams
To: Education - Freedom of Speech Review
Subject: Re: Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Higher Education Providers [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 1 March 2019 16:37:43

Dear Secretariat for Review of Freedom of Speech,

First, I would like to apologise for not replying by the deadline of the 22nd of February. I hope my late response has not caused difficulty for the timeline of the review.

I have a few brief comments on the model code for your consideration:
I appreciate the commitment to the wellbeing of staff and students in part (1), and distinguishing between external and invited speakers, and particularly the freedoms specified in part (5). If possible, I implore a reconsideration of part (6), in line with CAPA's recommendation that "universities retain the right to decide whether to host speakers who are not students or staff at their university, who lack academic legitimacy, and who promote viewpoints which threaten the safety of their staff and students". At a minimum, it would strengthen the position of universities to incude a commitment or acknowledgement of universities' duty to promote academic legitimacy and right to reject visiting speakers on that basis.
It would also be appreciated if the accompanying report could contain reference to state interference in academic freedom, in line with CAPA's recommendation "that legislation should be enacted to prevent government interference, and mandate transparency, in federal research funding allocations".

Finally, I confirm that you have permission to publish CAPA's submission on the website.

Thank you

Natasha Abrahams
National President
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CAPA would like to acknowledge the ongoing sovereignty of Aboriginal peoples over the lands in which we work, and pay our respects to elders past and present.

On Fri, Feb 8, 2019 at 3:46 PM Education - Freedom of Speech Review <freedomofspeechreview@education.gov.au> wrote:

> Dear Colleague
>
> Please see attached a letter and a Draft Model Code from the Hon Robert French AC in relation to the Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Higher Education Providers.

Your response would be greatly appreciated by close of business Friday 22 February 2019.

Kind regards

Secretariat for Review of Freedom of Speech

Quality and Access Branch

Higher Education Group

Australian Department of Education and Training

E: freedomofspeechreview@education.gov.au

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