

The Hon. Robert S. French,

Re-Draft Document

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your considered draft document which, I believe, is an excellent document to preserve freedom of speech at Academic Institutions.

I wish to raise some concern about the proposal in *Principles of the Code*, sub-clause 5 (d), which make the organisers of an event responsible for the financial costs regarding the security of an event. This opens the door for an opposing group to protest in such a way or such numbers that the organisers may not be able to afford to hold the event. This will necessarily have a stifling effect on free speech with minority voices bullied into silence by an unruly majority, or even a majority position being silenced by a small group of disruptive students. Surely it is the responsibility of the university and the government to ensure that students (as well as citizens in general) are free to express their views and free to hear particular views without intimidation or the burden of having to cover the cost of controlling the misbehaviour of those seeking to disrupt a meeting. If no disruption of meetings is allowed, then the cost of security should be minimal. As it stands, those seeking to exercise their lawful rights to freedom of speech are forced to pay extra, beyond their taxes, to control those who are acting against the law by disrupting a lawful gathering. This means that the rich will gain more rights to express themselves than the poor.

Thank you again for your good work.

Andre van Oudtshoorn  
Acting Principal  
Dean of Academics and Research



**PBC**  
PERTH BIBLE COLLEGE

1 College Court  
Karrinyup WA 6018  
Australia

**P** +61 (0)8 9243 2000  
**E** [andre@pbc.wa.edu.au](mailto:andre@pbc.wa.edu.au)  
[www.pbc.wa.edu.au](http://www.pbc.wa.edu.au)

THINKING SERVICE SINCE 1928

*Celebrating 90 years!*



This email is intended for the stated recipient only, and may contain confidential information. If you are not the stated recipient, you are not allowed to use or disclose any information contained within this communication. If you have received this email in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete this email from your system.