



### Proposed Co-Curricular Educational Programming

Sustaining a free speech environment requires concerted effort to educate and inform students (and the University staff who support them) about the University's values, goals, policies and procedures around freedom of expression, protest and dissent. The following suggestions build on programs and resources already in place in addition to proposing new, targeted measures for students and recognized student organizations. Training and programming efforts should not be limited temporally to programs during new student orientation and should be sufficiently diverse in format and content to allow for customization by the academic units and continuing relevance to students at multiple points in time during their academic careers. To every extent possible, the faculty should be invited to provide advice and/or participate in the development and execution of these various efforts.

- 1) While each academic unit or department directs the orientation program of its new students, we propose that the University provide and regularly update resources, in digital, print and in-person formats, to be offered and adapted as appropriate for new undergraduate, graduate and professional student audiences. Examples:
  - Short videos that introduce the history and values associated with UChicago's commitment to free expression.
  - A curated collection of key reports, statements and readings distributed to new students and made available online.
  - Dedicated time during new student orientation programs for introducing and discussing free expression and the concept of the free speech commons at UChicago.
  
- 2) Because opportunities, challenges and debates related to free expression will be a constant feature of life at the University, it is essential that the information and values conveyed to students during their first week on campus are reinforced beyond orientation. Suggestions for a system of ongoing co-curricular education and training include:
  - Required training for recognized student organizations (RSOs); in addition to including free speech issues in the standard training required of all RSO leaders, these groups may be required to identify a free expression point-of-contact in their organization. This individual would undergo additional training, participate in event reviews for programs their RSO hosts where free speech issues might emerge and serve as a consultant both for their RSO and for the University staff members who help support their organization around programs and events.
  - A student-centered website to help students understand University values, policies, procedures and resources around free expression, protest, dissent and activism. This resource would complement the *Student Manual of University Policies and Regulations*, by presenting content in an accessible and interactive fashion and providing clarity on the intersection between protest and demonstration activities and preserving the free expression environment at the University.