



University
of Manitoba
**STUDENTS'
UNION**

Motion

0590

Date

December 13, 2023

Upholding the Freedom of Expression at the University of Manitoba

Category
Standing Resolution

Motion

WHEREAS the ongoing conflict in the Middle East has heightened tensions and emotions, presenting a complicated and challenging backdrop;

WHEREAS the University of Manitoba in accordance with its Human Rights policy for all members of the community including students and faculty upholds the right "to academic freedom and freedom of thought, inquiry, and expression among our members, which may result in respectful disagreements regarding beliefs or principles";

WHEREAS the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) has reaffirmed their commitment and support to the "right to free expression on our campuses" in an email to all staff;

WHEREAS the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) recognizes and believes in the right to free speech as outlined in its Governing Documents;

WHEREAS UMSU a duty to protect its members from misguided interpretations of policies by the University administration;

WHEREAS students have the right to retain student advocates via the Student Advocacy Office in formal and informal meetings. Faculty and staff should notify students prior to meetings so that no student attends a meeting alone and will not have to face possible mental and emotional repercussions due to these meetings;

WHEREAS a Nursing student, has faced censure and suspension from their academic program for exercising their freedom of speech;

WHEREAS the Student has received threats of violence and sexual violence for the statements they have allegedly made.

BE IT RESOLVED that UMSU release a statement on its social media platforms and in an email to all members with the following requirements:

- UMSU acknowledge that a College of Nursing student has been suspended for their comments made on social media;
- UMSU unequivocally and unconditionally condemn administrative overreach on a student's right to freedom of expression;
- UMSU acknowledges students have the right to retain representation from the student advocacy office in informal and formal meetings with faculty and staff;
- UMSU unequivocally and unconditionally reaffirms ALL student's right to freedom of expression;
- UMSU unequivocally and unconditionally denounce any threats of violence to any student regardless of their beliefs in response to statements they have made.

Status
Not Seconded

Moved By: **Arij**

First Name

Al Khafagi

Last Name

Seconded By:

First Name

Last Name