



Committee on Free Expression

Annual Report

December 1, 2024

Cochise College established a committee on free expression as required by A.R.S §15-1868.

Members of the committee include the following:

Dr. Melesa Ashline, Director of Nursing, Downtown Center
Loren Gladwill, Director of Student Advocacy and Wellness/Title IX Coordinator, District-wide
Dr. Jennifer Wantz, Executive Dean of Community Engagement, District-wide
Dr. Dana Horne, Vice President for Student Services, District-wide
Shane Van Bibber, Director of Residential Life, Douglas Campus
Dr. Wendy Davis, Vice President for Administration, District-wide

Purpose:

Cochise College is dedicated to the principle that the free exchange of ideas is fundamental to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge. To that end, the college is committed to protecting every member of the college community's right to speak, write, listen to, explore, and debate competing ideas.

The college is committed fully to the fundamental tenet of higher education that the appropriate response to false, offensive, or even abhorrent speech is not to prohibit it or hide from it, but to respond to and challenge it with more speech.

The college's administrative policy 1021 Public Access and Expression on College Property is attached as Exhibit A.

This annual report provides information for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, and responds to the requests stated in A.R.S §15-1868:

Description of any barriers to or disruptions of free expression at Cochise College for fiscal year 2023-24:	Cochise College did not record any issues regarding barriers to or disruptions of free expression in FY24
Description of the administrative handling and discipline relating to barriers to or disruptions	Not applicable

Description of substantial difficulties, controversies, or success in maintaining a posture of administrative and institutional neutrality	<p>Cochise College has not had any substantial difficulties or controversies related to this policy.</p> <p>Cochise College embraces a culture of open communication and provides avenues for stakeholders to express opinions, thoughts, etc. The colleges has regular employee open forums and a complaint link on the web site for internal and external constituents to communicate concerns.</p>
Assessments, criticisms, commendations, or recommendations by the committee	The committee plans to meet once or twice per year and more if needed. There are not recommendations at this time from the committee.
Accounting of the allocation of student fees in the prior year	Cochise College does not assess general student fees.

Distribution of Report:

Office of the Governor of the State of Arizona, Brigham Lee, Community College Liaison, blee@az.gov

Office of the Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives, Russell Bowers; rbowers@azleg.gov

Office of the President of the Arizona Senate, Warren Petersen; wpetersen@azleg.gov

Office of the Arizona Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes, afontes@azsos.gov

Report posted on the Cochise College website; www.cochise.edu

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Davis, Ph.D.
Vice President for Administration
Chair, Committee on Free Expression