



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

[CORRECTED]

November 30, 2020

The Honorable Ralph Northam  
Governor of Virginia  
Post Office Box 1475  
Richmond, Virginia 23218  
c/o [clark.mercer@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:clark.mercer@governor.virginia.gov)

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas  
Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Education and Health  
Senate of Virginia  
900 E. Main St.  
Pocahontas Building, Room E604  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
[district18@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district18@senate.virginia.gov)

The Honorable Roslyn C. Tyler  
Chairwoman of the House Committee on Education  
Virginia House of Delegates  
900 E. Main St.  
Pocahontas Building, Room E306  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
[DelRTyler@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelRTyler@house.virginia.gov)

Dear Governor Northam, Senator Lucas, and Delegate Tyler:

In accordance with § 23.1-401.1(D) of the Code of Virginia, the University of Virginia submits this report regarding our compliance with § 23.1-401.1.

The University of Virginia maintains a website, <https://freespeech.virginia.edu/>, that features links to University policies and state regulations relevant to free speech, materials that are relevant on such policies, and the process to report incidents involving the disruption of constitutionally protected speech. The University's policies and regulations regarding constitutionally protected speech are located at <https://freespeech.virginia.edu/policies-regulations>. These same policies and regulations are also included in the University's online student handbook for undergraduate students at <http://records.ureg.virginia.edu/content.php?catoid=49&navoid=3631> and for graduate students at <http://records.ureg.virginia.edu/content.php?catoid=50&navoid=3761>. Materials on these policies and regulations in the form of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) also are featured on the website at <https://freespeech.virginia.edu/faqs>. The homepage of this website prominently displays the reporting systems that our constituents may use to report an incident involving the disruption of constitutionally protected speech at <https://freespeech.virginia.edu/>.

The University of Virginia's students and employees, including those responsible for student discipline or education of free speech materials, are notified of these policy resources throughout the year via various communication streams such as the above mentioned websites, University's standard summer orientation programs for all entering students, the University Judiciary Committee training and education, as well as communication to our staff at the Office of the Dean of Students on the issues relating to freedom of speech and applicable policies. In light of the coronavirus pandemic, the University was unable to hold traditional summer orientation programs and the Dean of Students made a post outlining resources and materials available regarding free speech on the Office of the Dean of Students website.

During the past year, no complaints have been filed in a court of law to initiate a lawsuit against the University of Virginia or an employee of the institution in his or her official capacity for an alleged violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

On behalf of the University, I am pleased to certify that the University has fulfilled the requirements in Virginia Code § 23.1-401.1. Thank you for your service to the Commonwealth. Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JER", is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

James E. Ryan  
President

cc: Timothy Heaphy, University Counsel  
J. J. Davis, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer