

Because Snow College is committed to free and open inquiry in all matters, it guarantees all members and guests of the Snow College community, as well as those outside the community, the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn. Except insofar as limitations on that freedom are necessary to the functioning of Snow College, Snow College fully respects and supports the freedom of all members of the Snow College community “to discuss any problem that presents itself.”

Of course, the ideas of different members of the Snow College community will often and quite naturally conflict. But it is not the proper role of Snow College to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Although Snow College greatly values civility, and although all members of the Snow College community share in the responsibility for maintaining a climate of mutual respect, concerns about civility and mutual respect can never be used as a justification for closing off discussion of ideas, however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of our community.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not, of course, mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. Snow College may restrict expression that violates the law, that falsely defames a specific individual, that constitutes a genuine threat to public safety, that unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests, or that is otherwise directly incompatible with the functioning of Snow College. In addition, Snow College may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt the ordinary activities of Snow College. But these are narrow exceptions to the general principle of freedom of expression, and it is vitally important that these exceptions never be used in a manner that is inconsistent with Snow College’s commitment to a completely free and open discussion of ideas.

In a word, Snow College’s fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate o