



The AAUP Chapter of Carleton College, founded 2021

In response to the public protests and debates that have occurred on college campuses after the October 7 attacks against Israel and Israelis by Hamas, Israel's war in Gaza, and Israeli military activity in the West Bank, national efforts have been made to discredit institutions of higher education and to pressure institutions to suppress or punish the open expression of views on these events and related issues. Such attempts to suppress speech and scholarship regarding the Israel/Palestine conflict have particularly affected those who have been critical of the State of Israel.

In this context, we, the Carleton College AAUP Chapter, reaffirm our defense of both academic freedom and the educational value of freedom of expression. We therefore strongly endorse the [recent statement](#) from AAUP president Irene Mulvey:

The AAUP has long condemned discrimination and harassment on college and university campuses while also championing students' right to hear and right to learn. Academic freedom and antidiscrimination initiatives can and should be pursued simultaneously. Equity and nondiscrimination will not be achieved if freedom of speech and academic freedom are compromised or legislated out of existence. Research, teaching, and the pursuit of knowledge must be allowed to occur openly, robustly and without political interference so that colleges and universities can fulfill their educational mission and model the intellectual conditions necessary for learning, for dialogue and productive disagreement, and for growth.

Our chapter recognizes and condemns recent incidents that have crossed the line into anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and antisemitic attacks. However, such events must not be used as justifications to limit or shut down scholarly engagement with and debate about the current war, the broader conflict and its history, Zionism, Palestinian rights, and related issues. To fulfill the educational mission of the College and advance our understanding of this moment in history, all members of our community must be able to state their views and teach and conduct scholarship on this issue without the threat of institutional sanction. Defending the capacity to express one's views freely is particularly important to the chapter when it comes to precarious members of the academic community such as untenured faculty, those on continuing appointments, non-US citizens, and people of color. Finally, institutions should not constrain, censure or punish faculty members who exercise their rights to speak freely and engage in politics as a member of the public.

AAUP Carleton College

Executive Committee:

William North, Professor of History

Andrew Poppick, Associate Professor of Statistics

Juliane Schicker, Associate Professor of German

Iveta Jusová, Professor of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

Claudia Lange, Instructor in Spanish

Sarah Anthony, Lecturer in French

approved by majority vote of the Chapter on 2024/2/24: 26 in support, 4 opposed, 1 abstaining