

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

UNIVERSITY SENATE

RULES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

To the Columbia University Community:

Today's recommendations are the result of years of work within the Rules of University Conduct Committee for the University Senate. From the start, I believe the Committee has benefited from our rich campus history of academic freedom and engagement with the most difficult and important questions of our time. Every member of the committee has meticulously recognized that Columbia University holds a special place in higher education. We are a campus that not just invites difficult debates, but celebrates them. Furthermore, far from just reviewing our own engagement with free expression, the Committee has reviewed both our own history as well as many of our sister institutions.

I am pleased to note how engaged the campus community has been during our process of review and revision. In addition to very well attended town-halls, members of every part of our campus community have been diligently engaged in speaking with members of our committee at every step of the process. It is a testament to the values we hold as a community that at Columbia free speech and free expression are to be celebrated, and that is evident by the fact that our process has included so many voices.

I would particularly like to thank every member of the Rules Committee for their extraordinary work these past years. This would not have been possible without the input from every member of the committee, especially our executive board composed of Senators Zila Acosta, Angela Nelson, and Jared Odessky.

On behalf of the entire Rules of University Conduct Committee for the University Senate, we continue to welcome feedback and debate as we strive to ensure a campus environment that reflects the most treasured values of Columbia University in the City of New York, and in doing so protects the eternal mission of higher education as a whole.

Very Truly Yours,



Christopher R. Riano

Chair