

Purpose and Position Statement on Diverse Viewpoints

At the University of Utah, we believe that a dynamic exchange of ideas is essential to academic excellence and the advancement of society. It is core to our mission to pursue knowledge through diverse discourse, intellectual deliberation, and a comfort with discomfort, no matter the topic.

To support this mission, we aim to foster an environment where all members of our campus community feel encouraged to engage and step forward in an educational environment that challenges them. This means all individuals feel confident that what they say will be given due space and critical examination. This commitment involves not only upholding a constructive atmosphere but also providing the necessary resources and support systems to facilitate meaningful dialogue and learning.

Given the depth and breadth of viewpoints that are protected on campus, the university maintains a stance of neutrality regarding individual perspectives. While we encourage the exploration and expression of a wide array of ideas, the university is not obligated to proactively present every possible viewpoint. Instead, we strive to create a platform where diverse voices can be heard, acknowledged, and critically examined.

Our position balances the need for open intellectual exploration with the practicalities of institutional responsibility. We will continue to champion an environment where diverse viewpoints are welcomed, while also ensuring that our primary focus remains on fostering an educational experience that is enriching and challenges all members of the community to grow and learn.

This statement reflects our unwavering commitment to academic freedom and the respectful exchange of ideas, in alignment with the values of our esteemed faculty, staff, students, and community. In this we are aligned with USHE:

The hallmark of higher education is its position as the marketplace of ideas, where community members may freely express all ideas and viewpoints and where the merits of those ideas are subject to rigorous scrutiny and must withstand the challenge of open debate and critical examination. Therefore, the Board affirms its commitment to free expression and academic freedom, under rules and policies created in alignment with the Constitution of the United States.