



Office of the Provost

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June 4, 2019

Prof. Zelda B. Harris
Chair - University Senate 2018-19
Law School
Corboy Law Center
25 East Pearson Ave
Chicago, IL 60611

Prof. Susan Uprichard
Chair - University Senate 2019-20
Stritch School of Medicine
Center for Translational Research & Education
2160 S First Ave
Maywood, IL 60153

Dear University Senate Chairs Harris and Uprichard,

In response to the Senate resolution to clarify the speaker policy and the speaker contract

In November of 2018, a Speaker's Contract was developed for commencement speakers to address an issue regarding videotaping commencement speeches. Language was developed and added to the contract to clarify that any commencement speaker was aware of, and consented to, being videotaped/audiotaped. This was important since commencement ceremonies are livestreamed.

Through a misunderstanding, on Friday, April 5th, a communication went out to the College of Arts and Sciences indicating that there was a "new university-wide policy requiring all external speakers to sign the attached Loyola Speaker Agreement before the event takes place on Loyola's campus." This was incorrect. However, it caused concern regarding academic freedom and the free exchange of ideas, particularly in the classroom.

This communication was corrected by Tuesday, April 9th with a note which indicated that "There is no requirement to complete this contract for any classroom, lecture or other academic activities."

The Speaker's Contract to be used for commencement has been relabeled as the "Commencement Speaker Contract" to prevent any future miscommunication. The Commencement Speaker Contract will only be used by staff in the Provost's Office, in collaboration with Dean's offices, for commencement speakers.

The "Speaker Policy for Loyola University of Chicago" revised in 2016 has not been revised since 2016 and does not require any additional revisions at this time. The 2016 Speaker Policy clearly indicates "These guidelines do not apply to faculty members in the teaching of their classes or to speakers invited by faculty members to make a presentation that occurs in the closed forum of a scheduled course." Also, since Commencement Speaker Contracts will only be used by staff in the Provost's Office, there is no need to revise the 2016 Speaker Policy to address the use of the Commencement Speaker Contract.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Faut Callahan".

Margaret Faut Callahan, CRNA, PhD, FNAP, FAAN
Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer

CC: Jo Ann Rooney, JD, LLM, EdD
President