

Contact: Jason Pontius

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 FREE SPEECH COMMITTEE MEETING

**SLIFE BALLROOM, COMMONS
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA**

Free Speech Committee Members

Greta Rouse (Chair)

David Barker (Vice Chair)

Abby Crow, Member

Aimee Claeys, Board Staff

Guests: Nancy Boettger, Nancy Dunkel, Jim Lindenmayer, Sherry Bates, JC Risewick and Anelia Dimitrova

Chair Rouse called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Approval of Free Speech Committee Minutes of June 1, 2022

Approved by general consent.

Presentation on First Amendment and Freedom of Expression

Chair Rouse recognized Dr. Anelia Dimitrova. Dr. Dimitrova presented on the First Amendment and how she engages her students in the classroom. She explained as educators, you can partner across disciplines and campus, raise awareness through hands-on activities, and teach and practice respect for the rights of people you disagree with.

Regent Barker asked how she handles situations where someone says certain speech should not be permitted. Dr. Dimitrova shared she would have a conversation with the person, have them explain where they are coming from and provide them with facts.

Regent Lindenmayer asked what her biggest surprise in teaching has been. Dr. Dimitrova shared her biggest surprise is that people do not talk about the First Amendment and if we give people an opportunity to talk they will. This is an opportunity to build trust in the classroom, hear opposing views, and have students feel comfortable. She explained just having a policy doesn't cut it. It takes practicing it, role modeling it, and to open spaces for everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.