Free Speech Issues Questionnaire

COMM 491 - Results - Spring 2011

Below are statements concerning freedom of expression. On the line to the left of each statement indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the statement using the following scale.

5 = Totally AGREE	4 = Moderately AGREE	3 = Don't know or uncertain
2 = Moderately DISAGREE		1 = Totally DISAGREE

Average

2.64   1. Freedom of expression should be denied to those who abuse it.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	0	5	1	4	2

2.08   2. Highly explicit sexual materials, whether visual or verbal, should be banned by the government.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	0	0	3	7	2

2.70   3. Radical Muslims, Nazi's and Ku Klux Klansmen should have the same free speech rights as other citizens.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	0	5	1	4	2

3.26   4. Violent crime should be punished more seriously if the perpetrator has expressed a racially biased motive.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	1	4	5	1	1

3.49   5. College teachers should be free to advocate any viewpoints they wish in class as long as these ideas are relevant to the topic of the course.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	1	7	1	2	1

2.61   6. Freedom of speech in the U.S. should only be granted to U.S. citizens.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	1	3	2	2	4

3.00   7. Speech that is deeply offensive to ethnic, religious or other identifiable groups or individuals should be restricted or punished by government or other public institutions such as colleges in some situations.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	1	4	2	4	1

2.94   8. The government has the right to control the opinions expressed by government employees on the job or when they might be perceived to be representing the government.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	2	4	0	6	1

2.82   9. If the government pays for legal, medical or other services, the government should be able to control what kind of advice and opinions are expressed by lawyers, doctors or other professionals in such interactions.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	0	2	0	6	4

4.02   10. Censorship is a serious restriction on artistic freedom.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	4	5	2	1	0

2.80   11. People who only criticize and don't offer solutions are abusing the right to free expression.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	0	4	2	5	1

1.68   12. Schools should not be permitted to allow the presentation of materials favorable to homosexuality or other lifestyles unacceptable to some parents.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	0	1	1	5	5

2.64   13. Ethical lawyers will only defend clients who they believe are innocent.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	1	2	3	4	2

2.18   14. If a company employee has signed a contract agreeing not to reveal any information learned from his employer, the courts should prevent such a person from presenting evidence about the harms or wrong-doing done by the company without its permission.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	0	2	3	3	4

4.51   15. On a college campus, any viewpoint or information should be allowed to be discussed as long as the discussion in not violent or disruptive to normal school activities.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	8	3	0	1	0

3.63   16. If the government determines that national security is threatened, it should be allowed to punish dissent and disagreement believed to be harmful to the country.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	2	4	4	1	0

2.58   17. Libraries should make records of who requests what materials to the public and make them available to government investigators.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	0	3	2	6	1

2.78   18. If there is the possibility that audience members may become violent as a result of what a speaker may say, it is acceptable to require cancellation of the speech.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	1	3	3	3	2

2.41   19. Restrictions on materials which may get into the hands of children should be no stricter than those materials for adults.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	0	2	1	7	2

3.27   20. There is a pressing need to restrict the transmission of sexually related materials on the internet.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	1	4	3	3	0

3.20   21. There should be stricter limits on what the press reports about before and during criminal trials.

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	1	4	3	4	0

| 3.51 | 22. The best way to deal with offensive or dangerous ideas is to get respected people to speak out and refute those ideas. | | | | | |

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	1	6	3	2	0

| 2.96 | 23. The government should be able to restrict access to any of its documents if it deems it important to keep the document private. |

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	0	5	3	3	1

| 4.60 | 24. Political candidates should be required to announce their positions on key issues beforethe election. |

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	8	3	1		

| 3.33 | 25. Corporations should have the same rights to free expression as individual citizens in all matters, including donating money to campaigns and buying advertising in order to influence elections. |

Response #	5s	4s	3s	2s	1s
# of students	2	4	2	4	0