

# WELLESLEY COLLEGE

## Wellesley College Task Force on Speech and Inclusion June 2018

### Charge to the Task Force

The Task Force on Speech and Inclusion is composed of students, faculty and staff who collectively represent a range of viewpoints, experiences, and backgrounds. **The work of the Task Force will result in a set of recommendations to the President for creating a campus environment that supports freedom of speech and intellectual challenge through thoughtful and respectful engagement.** The recommendations will form the basis for a set of guiding principles on speech and inclusion at Wellesley College. The Task Force will consider questions such as the following:

1. Do we have a clear and shared understanding of community expectations around speech and inclusion? If not, what can be done to establish such an understanding? How do we define inclusion? How have social media and online communications affected speech norms across our campus? What can we do to help members of our community navigate this perilous electronic environment to take advantage of its openness while mitigating the damage it can do not only to the truth but also the well-being of those participating?
2. What settings or formats (e.g. debates, panels, or other strategies for facilitating difficult conversations) foster the kind of dialog we want to see on campus, and what is the college's responsibility to foster those formats or settings?
3. How do students experience our classrooms? Do students feel there are things they can say and cannot say? Do faculty members feel similarly muffled in addressing sensitive issues? Are these constraints an encroachment on academic freedom, and if so what is the responsibility of students, faculty and the college to address them?
4. Do we have sufficient policy and protocols around outside speakers when we know they are likely to be controversial in the community? What do we define as controversial? Are there ways to prepare the community for controversy without regulating who speaks on campus?
5. A broad and deep exploration of speech must include recognition of differences of power in the community. How do we take account of the fact that some members of our community feel freer to speak their minds than others? How do we work to rebalance power differences and enable more open speech when the dynamics of power may not be the same at all times?



## Timeline

The Task Force has met twice in the 2018 spring semester and will reconvene at the beginning of the 2018 fall semester. The Task Force plans to hold open listening sessions with campus constituencies during the fall semester, and has been asked to submit its recommendations to the President by early 2019.

## Members

Task Force on Speech and Inclusion Members		
<b>Faculty</b>		
Arciniegas, Diego	Theater Studies	Senior Lecturer
Greer, Brenna Wynn	History	Assistant Professor
Lynch, Kathryn (Cappy)	English	Professor
Wasserman, Sara	Neuroscience	Assistant Professor
<b>Staff</b>		
Cruzvergara, Christine	Career Education	Associate Provost, Executive Director
Haynie, Lauren	PERA	Senior Associate Director
Lancaster, Kim	Finance & Administration	Assistant to the Vice President
Sendoya, Ines	Student Life	Associate Dean of Students for Inclusion & Engagement
<b>Students</b>		
Crump, Tyanna	Class of 2019	Africana Studies & Media Arts and Sciences
Preja, Irena	Class of 2021	Economics
Webb, Kaila	Class of 2020	Chinese Language and Culture
Weissman, Hannah	Class of 2019	Political Science