

Joint Committee on Civil Discourse (JCCD)

Date and Time: 6/26/25 at 9AM

Location: Teams

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 9:04am

Present: Dr. Chergosky, Caleb Colon-Rivera, Jenni Brundage, Ashley Nowak

Absent: Dr. Kara Ostlund

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of last agenda
 - a. First - Anthony, Second - Caleb, No opposed
- III. Approval of today's agenda
 - a. First - Jenni, Second – Anthony, No opposed
- IV. Approval of 2024-2025 End-of-Year Report
 - a. First – Caleb, Second - Anthony, No oppose
- V. Update from JCCD Meeting with the Chancellor
 - a. Endorsed changes to the bylaws that we're looking at to clarify renewable terms
 - b. Discussed looking for additional funding
 - c. Confirmed proceeding with creating discussion agreements
 - d. Overall, strong support from the chancellor to continue this work
- VI. WICCD Survey
 - a. Survey for faculty will be disseminated soon
 - b. Website: - WICCD Survey
 - c. JCCD defers to faculty senate and the provost
- VII. Discuss bylaw revisions
 - a. Membership, term limits and reappointments, roles, charge
 - i. Motion with amendments to bylaws
 1. First - Anthony, Second - Jenni, No opposed
 - b. New faculty appointments, per faculty senate: Lein, Amy Elizabeth and Morgan, Kendall Laura
- VIII. Campus discussion agreement proposal
 - a. Will move forward with a separate meeting of JCCD and ex officio
- IX. Review FSW 2025
 - a. Schedule & communications

Adjourn: 9:56am

Joint Committee on Civil Discourse (JCCD)

Date and Time: 5/5/25 at 9AM

Location: Teams

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 9:08am

Present: Dr. Ostlund, Caleb Colon-Rivera, Jenni Brundage, Kailey Mael, Dr. Chergosky, Ashley S. Nowak

Absent: Jackson Skarp and Isabel Piarulli

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approval of 4/14/25 Agenda
 - a. First – Jenni, Second – Caleb, No opposed
3. Approval of today's agenda
 - a. First – Jenni, Second – Kailey, No opposed
4. Review EOY Budget
 - a. A general overview and discussion of the remaining budget for the academic year.
5. Grant possibility
 - a. [Tommy G Thompson Center](#)
 - i. Potential funding source for high-profile speakers.
 - ii. Preference for proposals that are politically centrist, nonpartisan, or bipartisan.
 - iii. Suggested speaker ideas: Brian Reisinger, Sharon McMahon
 - iv. Deadline: May 23, 2025, for the 2025–26 academic year
 - b. Future Funding Consideration
 - i. SUFAC may be approached for financial support
6. Upcoming meeting with the Chancellor
 - a. Date, time, and location: 5/16 at 8:30 am in 1131 Centennial
 - b. Discussion focus:
 - i. Discussion of JCCD's formal charge
 - ii. Budget planning considerations
 - iii. Preparatory discussion for Free Speech Week 2025 (FSW 2025)
7. FSW 2025 - [Free Speech Week 2025](#)
 - a. All present members agreed on Louis Newman as a FSW presenter
 - b. Discussed additional programming

Adjourn: 9:52 am

Joint Committee on Civil Discourse (JCCD)

Date and Time: 4/4/25 at 1:00pm

Rescheduled for 4/14 at 9:00am

Location: Teams

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 9:05am

Present: Dr. Kara Ostlund, Caleb Colon-Rivera, Jenni Brundage, Kailey Mael, Dr. Anthony Chergosky, Ashley S. Nowak

Absent: Jackson Skarp and Isabel Piarulli

Agenda

- Welcome
- Approval of [previous agenda notes](#)
 - a. Motion to approve – First: Jenni, Second: Caleb, no objections
- Approval of today's agenda
 - a. Motion to approve – First: Kara, Second: Jenni, no objections
- Events
 - a. April 10th – Speech Matters Viewing Party (currently 27 registered)
 - i. About 18 participants
 - ii. Interactivity: <https://www.menti.com/alqm671aszw1>
 - iii. Reflection/Feedback:
 - Lunch was nice and incentive to join in person
 - Look to carve out time for structured discussion
 - Consider a post-event discussion opportunity and invite leadership
 - Same date/ competition with WCPA PDI
 - b. April 24th – Pluralist Lab @ UWL
 - i. Currently 10 registered
 - ii. Coming up; share opportunity with students as you see fit
- Update on Campus-wide Discussion Agreements – no update
 - a. Next step: invite Chancellor Beeby to a future meeting
- Discuss Free Speech Week for 2025
 - a. Explore potential themes and speakers
 - i. Theme Ideas:
 - Individuals Sparking Change for Collective Impact
 - Even a single voice can create ripples. Empowering individuals to lead dialogue, challenge structures, and influence collective thought.

- Truth in the Noise: Navigating Facts, Media and Ideologies
 - Free speech thrives when paired with curiosity, critical thinking, and accountability. How do we hold space for diverse views without falling prey to falsehoods?
- Boomers to Z: Building Trust Across Generations
 - Civil discourse requires trust, and trust requires understanding. Bridging generational divides helps foster shared values and meaningful conversation.
- Speaking with Heart: Emotional Intelligence in Free Expression
 - Free speech is not free of consequence. Navigating emotional nuance and learning how to communicate with compassion without compromising authenticity.

Adjourn: 10:04am

Joint Committee on Civil Discourse (JCCD)

Date and Time: 3/14/25 at 1:00pm

Location: Teams

Call to order: 2:06pm

Present: Ashley Nowak, Kailey Mael, Anthony Chergosky, Jenni Brundage, Caleb Colon-Rivera, Kara Ostlund, Jackson Skarp

Absent: Isabel Piarulli

Agenda

- Welcome
- Approval of previous agenda notes
 - a. Motion to approve Jenni, Second Kailey – no one opposed
- Approval of today's agenda
 - a. Motion to approve Kara, Second Jenni – no one opposed
- Review February communication
- Updates from Anthony re upcoming WICCD presentation
 - a. Will be talking about the JCCD to [WICCD](#) reps (2-3 from each UW)
 - b. Could share information about structure of committee (tenured faculty, non-tenured faculty, staff, students), Free Speech Week, more initiatives throughout the AY, annual report to display the multifaceted approaches
- Review upcoming events
 - a. April 1-3 – Social Justice Week - A screening for the documentary [Undivide Us](#) and 30-minute facilitated discussion.
 - b. April 10th – Speech Matters Viewing Party
 - i. Ideas: discussion question at breaks, idea board, collective notetaking
 - ii. Consider using mentimeter to collect responses and share
 - iii. Share out/invite folks: <https://forms.office.com/r/dxspghu3mP>
 - c. April 24th – Pluralist Lab @ UWL (open to UWL, Western and Viterbo students)
 - i. Share out/invite folks: <https://forms.office.com/r/8JzJ4knAb>
 - d. April 26th – Workshop on Academic Freedom & Speech Regulation (statewide)
- Student Learning Module on Freedom of Expression, Academic Freedom and Civil Dialogue
 - a. [Live Modules](#) or see email attachment
- Discussion Agreements – no updates
- Free Speech Week 2025 -
 - a. Start to brainstorm:
 - i. Speakers, events, or initiatives
 - ii. Theme
 - iii. Purpose

Adjourn: 2:44

From: Ashley Nowak <anowak2@uwlax.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 11:17 AM

To: Caleb Colon-Rivera <ccolon-rivera@uwlax.edu>; Ashley Nowak <anowak2@uwlax.edu>; Kara Ostlund <kostlund@uwlax.edu>; Jenni Brundage <jbrundage@uwlax.edu>; Anthony Chergosky <achergosky@uwlax.edu>; Kailey Mael <kmael@uwlax.edu>; Jackson Skarp <skarp8505@uwlax.edu>; Isabel Piarulli <piarulli1724@uwlax.edu>

Subject: JCCD Updates

Hello JCCD,

We're still rounding out our committee and waiting to hear back from councils, but I think this is a wonderful group! Thank you for continuing your service. Due to illnesses/absences we were unable to meet last week. In lieu of a make-up meeting, please see the notes below. It is a long email so please save for when you are able to read through it and of course, reach out if you have any questions.

Discussion Agreements – unofficial charge

- We can explore the possibility for campus-wide discussion agreements. If you have examples you like, please add them to [Discussion Agreement Examples.docx](#). At this time there is no official charge.

Spring 2025 Events

- April 1-3 – Social Justice Week
 - Ashley has submitted a proposal for the documentary [Undivide Us](#) and if approved, plans to show film and facilitate 30-minute discussion. Let Ashley know if you'd like to join as a co-facilitator/coordinator on this.
 - Others are welcome to submit proposals. See application: [Free Speech Week 2025](#)
- April 10th – #SpeechMatters2025 Viewing Party
 - Room/Link- Room Union 3110 is reserved (#37657) 10:30-2:30. Ashley has registered for viewing link and shared a calendar invite with committee members.
 - Food - Will order food over lunchtime. We have money left in the budget for this.
 - Marketing/promotion - this is on the UWL event calendar. See Appendix A. Please share with your networks as we get closer to the date. A communication will be drafted that you can use as a template.
- April 24th – Pluralist Lab @ UWL (open to UWL, Western and Viterbo students)
 - Room- Union 3120 is reserved (#37659).
 - Food- Will order catering
 - Marketing/promotion - this is on the UWL event calendar. See Appendix B. Please share with your networks, including Western, Viterbo and UWL.
- April 26th – Workshop on Academic Freedom & Speech Regulation (statewide)

- This is not sponsored or hosted by JCCD, but Ashley N. was asked to help out. It relates to the content of our committee work. See details below and share the opportunity with any/all UW folks as you see fit.
 - Date/Time/Location - *Saturday, April 26, 2025 | 8:15 AM – 4:00 PM @ UW-La Crosse, Student Union, Room 3105*
 - This non-credit workshop is open to full-time students at UW System universities. Registration is required, with a deadline of April 4. Only 36 students will be accepted, so apply early! Participants must complete required readings and engage actively. Upon completion, students will receive a \$500 stipend (SSN and additional info required for payment).
 - To apply, complete the online form at the [WICCD website](#).
- May 28-30 - The Discussion Project at UW-La Crosse
 - This is not sponsored or hosted by JCCD but led by Ashley N., Caleb, & Ashley E and related to the content of our committee work. There are 30 spots available. Currently there are 33 applicants. [Click here to apply](#).

Free Speech Week 2025

- Start thinking about [Free Speech Week 2025](#) (October 20th) as we will want to secure programming. We'll prioritize this after we get through April.

Action

- Order catering for #speechmatters2025- Caleb
- Order catering for Pluralist Lab (will discuss with Jim for funding string) - Caleb
- Draft of invitation comms for #speechmatters2025 to share – Ashley
- Draft of invitation comms for Pluralist Lab to share - Ashley
- Block time on calendars as able - All
- Share events with students/staff/faculty as you see fit – All
- Consider Social Justice Week co-facilitating, submit own proposal, or volunteering - All

**#SPEECH
MATTERS**

Truth,
Trust and
Transformation

2025

Viewing Party

**Thursday, April 10
10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
3110 Student Union**

JOINT COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL DIALOGUE



Appendix B



Our next meeting date is Friday, March 7 at 1pm via Teams.

Thank you for ALL you do!!!
Ashley

[Ashley Nowak](#), she/her

Director, [Center For Transformative Justice](#) | UW - La Crosse
anowak2@uwlax.edu | 608.785.5093 | 1131 Centennial Hall



Joint Committee on Civil Discourse (JCCD)

October 16, 2024, at 2:15pm

Center for Transformative Justice Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Called to order at: 2:19 pm

Present: Kara Ostlund – Dean of Students, Ashley Nowak – Convener/CTJ Director, Caleb Colon-Rivera – Notetaker/CTJ Program Manager, Kailey Mael – University Advancement, Isabel Piarulli & Jackson Skarp – Student Representatives, Jenni Brundage – Residence Life Director, Taylor Cole Miller – Faculty Representative

Absent: Anthony Chergosky

- I. Welcome
 - a. Introductions again for folks that weren't available from last week
- II. Approve previous meeting minutes
 - a. [10.2.24 Agenda JCCD.docx](#)
 - b. Previous meeting minutes are approved unanimously by committee
- III. Motion to approve today's agenda
 - a. Current meeting minutes are approved unanimously by committee
- IV. Updates (calendar, links, locations, food, registrants)
 - a. Day 1 – Staff/Faculty Webinar and Watch Party
 - i. We have link for this event
 - ii. 40-60 folks – room and beverages reserved in the student union –
Calendar event has link ready
 - b. Day 2 – Student Lunch and Learn
 - i. Touched base with Sam – they do not need anything when it comes to tech.
 - ii. Currently 20 students are registered for the L&L – expect walk ins
 - iii. Caleb will print off sign ins for student attendance
 - iv. Ashley brought up some sort of assessment regarding the event
 1. Quick 2-3 questions or at the end of the week

2. Who will be in charge of creating assessment? Caleb and Ashley
3. Is there any data assessment that we want to reuse in the past- ashley will review the JCCD files in the past to potentially use a starting point

c. Day 3 – Keynote and Conversation

- i. Taylor met with Richard Brown for his speech/what he is talking about and generating questions. Richard needs technology for his powerpoint
- ii. Caleb will connect with AVLS to make sure he has a way to access his slides – need powerpoint
- iii. Ashley and Taylor will get powerpoint and that will be sent to AVLS/Doug Wilkin
- iv. If numbers are lower, we can rearrange the space Caleb and Reservations
- v. Betsy Morgan (Provost) will be sending one more push for faculty to join the event on Monday
- vi. Was shared with the UWL Celebrates list
- vii. Getting Instagram squares for social media to tag UWL and connect to students' groups
- viii. Caleb will contact reservations and finalize details
- ix. Added student leaders to private student luncheon with Richard Brown

V. Update budget - [JCCD Budget 24-25.xlsx](#)

VI. Mid-semester communication to students

- a. Discussion on who will have a communication come out regarding the election and all those details – Jenni brought up from Student Life Directors and how we want to support students for the upcoming weeks

- b. Is everyone supportive of JCCD drafting an email that will be sent out by Chancellor Beeby
- c. Kara and Jenni will be drafting an email that will be sent to JCCD for editing to ensure that messaging is on topic and aligns with committee goals

3:03 pm Adjourned

Joint Committee on Civil Discourse (JCCD)

September 18, 2024

3:30pm

Center for Transformative Justice Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Called to order at 3:30pm

Present: J. Brundage, N. Heard, K. Mael, T. Miller, A. Nowak, K. Ostlund

Late: A. Chergosky

Absent: C. Colon-Rivera

- I. Introductions – Committee membership and roles
- II. Charge Letter from Dr. Beeby
 - a. Bylaw Changes
 - i. Current Bylaws
 1. Recommendation by Chancellor Beeby to revise bylaws to indicate that the Director of the Center for Transformative Justice will serve as the convenor for the committee
 2. Discussion of name change from Joint Committee on Free Speech Promotions to Joint Committee on Civil Discourse in bylaws
 - ii. Added to agenda for next meeting for voting
- III. Free speech week activities
 - a. Free speech week is October 21-October 26
 - b. JCCD's events are one of many events that week
 - c. Free Speech Week Activities
 - i. First Amendment Webinar for faculty and staff
 - ii. Critical Thinking
 - iii. Media Literacy
 - iv. Moderated Discussion
 - v. History of Voter Suppression
 - vi. Constitution Day – September/October/November
 - vii. Voter Registration Drives
 - viii. Election Day tabling in the Union
 - ix. TedX-Using Your Voice
 - x. Pre and Post Election Support
 - xi. Difficult Conversations Guide
 - xii. TBD with Student Association
 - xiii. Emergency Response Team
 - xiv. Safety – Collaboration with the city of La Crosse
- IV. Approval of event posters for JCCD events
- V. Richard Brown event
 - a. 1:00-1:45pm – light lunch/appetizers and interaction with student groups
 - b. 2:00-3:00pm – welcome and being in community with keynote

- c. 3:15-4:15pm – meet and greet party
- d. Groups to invite for student interaction – roughly 42-45 people
 - i. SJI RAs
 - ii. The Racquet Press
 - iii. Broadcasting Students
 - iv. Student Association President and Vice President
 - v. Lambda Pi Eta officers
 - vi. Civil Discourse Program Student Leaders
- e. Discussion of Action items

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by K. Ostlund