

Motion:

University of Winnipeg FA/York University FA

WHEREAS CAUT By-Law #1 stipulates that the CAUT Executive Committee shall “administer, and supervise the administration of the Association and its affairs and carry out the instructions of Council” (s. 10).

WHEREAS CAUT By-Law #1 stipulates that the CAUT Executive Director, subject to the direction of the CAUT Executive Committee, shall “assume such other responsibilities as may be assigned at a Council, the Executive or pursuant to the By-laws” (s. 12.3.e.viii).

WHEREAS the CAUT Report on Academic Freedom After Oct. 7, 2023 should be modified to reflect and acknowledge International Law, extant documentation on its content, and CAUT Council standing positions on subject matter therein.

WHEREAS the findings of CAUT’s review of cases reported to it since October 7th, 2023 demonstrate an unprecedented assault on academic freedom related to speech, advocacy, and scholarship on Palestine so as to warrant an investigation.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CAUT Report on Academic Freedom After Oct. 7, 2023 be revised as follows:

1. The opening paragraph be revised to acknowledge the larger context in which the report is situated including the Occupation of Palestinian Territory as well as the ensuing 18 months of war waged by Israel on Gaza, now widely considered genocidal in both intent and practice. This is not to condone the Hamas attack but to avoid erasure of decades of Palestinian suffering.
2. Where anti-Palestinian racism (APR) is first named, acknowledge and cite the Arab Canadian Lawyers Association report on the term now widely used throughout North America.
3. Where the Palestine Exception is named, include a citation to the report by that name published by the US organization Palestine Legal in 2015.
4. Where the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is named, include the specification that CAUT Council has passed two near unanimous motions opposing the adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Anti-Semitism at Canadian Universities and Colleges, in 2021 and, more recently, in 2024.

5. Refer to the Fall 2024 submission by B'nai B'rith to a study by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Research naming particular researchers at Canadian universities who received Tri-Council Funding. The B'nai B'rith intervention is akin to the harassment and doxing tactics of Canary Mission and Honest Reporting named in the CAUT report.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CAUT Council direct the CAUT Executive Committee to coordinate these revisions and facilitate the distribution of this revised report to CAUT Members.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CAUT Council direct the CAUT Executive Committee to launch a full-scale and comprehensive Canada-wide investigation on suppression of speech and scholarship on Palestine on University and College campuses.

This Motion was the subject of much discussion and many amendments.

The end result was that the above motion was split into two.

Part 1 - carried.

SFUFA abstained

Part 2 -

was further amended – and the following language struck (to launch a full-scale and comprehensive Canada-wide investigation) and replaced with alternative text requesting a survey be carried out.

we don't have the final wording but in summary, directed CAUT Exec committee to strike a Committee of 3, including a scholar who researches Palestine issues, to oversee a survey across Canada of the experiences of Palestinian scholars and academics who have supported Palestine, akin to the 2024 Survey of Indigenous academics.

The amended motion carried.

SFUFA abstained.