



**SECRETARY FOR ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FREE SPEECH AND HATE SPEECH
SELF-NOMINEE FORM**

Name: Joseph Cesario
Campus Address: Room 255 Psychology Building
Email: cesario@msu.edu
Contact Phone: 517-355-0203
Primary College: Social Science
Primary Department: Psychology
Current Faculty Title: Professor
Education (Degree, Year, and Institution): Ph.D., 2006, Columbia University
Year of Initial Appointment: 2006

If placed on the final election ballot and elected, I agree to serve: Yes

Save this completed document with the following file name format: **your last name_nomination_form**.

Email completed nomination form to the Secretary for Academic Governance at acadgov@msu.edu by March 4, 2024 6 pm EST.

Instructions for Nominee: In one page or less, describe your reasons for seeking a nomination for the position on the Ad Hoc Committee on Free Speech and Hate Speech. These might include prior personal or professional experiences, special discipline-specific expertise, and/or representation of a specific community. This statement will be used to aid the faculty members of the Steering Committee in determining the *ad hoc* committee's membership.

Nominee's Statement:

Free speech policies, like all policies, need to meet a number of goals and standards: upholding constitutional rights as public institution; maintaining truth-seeking as the central goal of higher education; ensuring that *all* students are welcome to participate in and contribute to university life; and more. I have a deep and long-standing interest in free speech and its role in the scientific process and in democratic institutions. I was a participating member of the 2021 LeFrak Forum on Intellectual Diversity and Free Speech on Campus. I pushed President Stanley to renew MSU's commitment to the Chicago Principles upon his arrival at MSU. I am a founding member of the Society for Open Inquiry in Behavioral Science, a professional organization with a commitment to free inquiry and free expression in the social sciences. My undergraduate and graduate courses often cover difficult and controversial

material, and I have worked for the past two decades to develop ways of engaging students in hard conversations about such topics. As I note in my syllabi, I encourage students to adopt an "intellectual stance" with two core features: (1) respect for each individual person and (2) free inquiry and intellectual integrity. Meaningful intellectual development requires appreciation of both these elements, and my goal in the classroom is to hold these as guiding principles when working through challenging material. I would take this as my goal in serving on this Ad Hoc Committee, as well.

As has been noted, a liberal arts education seeks "to liberate the capacities of the individual through self-understanding, self-cultivation, and self-control." Such enlightenment cannot occur without the twin values listed above, and my involvement with this important Committee would be to help craft policy to ensure that all members of the University community can avail themselves of this wonderful educational opportunity.