



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

Name: Marisol Quintanilla
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Primary College: CANR
Primary Department: Entomology
Current Faculty Title: Assistant Professor
Education (Degree, Year, and Institution): Ph.D., 2009, Michigan State University
Year of Initial Appointment: 2017

If placed on the final election ballot and elected, I agree to serve: Yes, I would be honored to serve in this committee

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: I have a high interest in freedom of speech and believe that freedom of speech and ability to debate new ideas allows for innovation and knowledge growth. In addition, freedom of speech is the foundational right of free societies and without free speech, most other rights are compromised. Freedom speech protects minority groups and empowers people that are underrepresented. Galileo Galilei was placed on house arrest and forced to recant for just saying that the earth rotated the sun, that is censorship that punished true knowledge because it was a controversial idea. Even controversial ideas must be allowed to be spoken, defeat bad speech with more speech, not censorship. MSU's interim president has written a statement in support of free speech. This is encouraging and this leads me to believe that MSU is focusing on staying as institution of higher learning where ideas, even controversial ones, can be discussed, therefore allowing us to remain in the cutting edge of knowledge

and innovation. Fear of reprisals for “wrong beliefs” has a damping effect on innovation, people are afraid to deviate from approved ideas. Kindly find the statement in support for free speech by our interim president Teresa K. Woodruff: “On our first day of classes this semester, I sent a letter affirming our guiding principles of freedom of speech and expression. MSU is a place where voice is respected, and arguments are honed. It is a place where Spartans hail from around the world and care deeply about the world we share. It is a place where students develop their voice and points of view and envision strategies for civic engagement. We fervently adhere to freedom of speech that might sometimes feel uncomfortable and enablement of the pursuit of transformation through education for every Spartan.”

https://president.msu.edu/communications/2024/2024-01-23-spartan-community-letter.html?sc_campaign=14CD019AFA0748EE8B69B95803741D92&utm_source=insidemsu-email&utm_medium=em&utm_campaign=standard-promo