



The article below describes Isegoria and Parrhesia in some detail:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/12/two-concepts-of-freedom-of-speech/546791/>

“The reason that appeals to the First Amendment cannot decide these campus controversies is because there is a more fundamental conflict between two, very different concepts of free speech at stake. The conflict between what the ancient Greeks called *isegoria*, on the one hand, and *parrhesia*, on the other, is as old as democracy itself. Today, both terms are often translated as “freedom of speech,” but their meanings were and are importantly distinct. In ancient Athens, *isegoria* described the equal right of citizens to participate in public debate in the democratic assembly; *parrhesia*, the license to say what one pleased, how and when one pleased, and to whom.”

Isegoria: Everyone at UCN meetings and events should feel as though they have been afforded the Isegoria aspect of Free Speech in its fullness. Even those with unpopular views should be allowed to speak at UCN events. Allowing these voices to be heard will help to counter the perception that universities are anti-free speech and increase opportunities for understanding that are not capable of being reached through modern tactics being used on campuses around the country. These tactics include meeting disruption, physical violence, and “no-platforming.”

Isegoria also means a right to *reasoned* equal expression. UCN leaders will need to model the reasoned portion of isegoria for people engaged in discussions. If an unpopular or illogical view is being expressed because someone is exercising their right to that equality, UCN leaders must also use that equality of expression to subject the view in question to reason/scrutiny when given the opportunity to respond.

Parrhesia: People at UCN meetings should feel empowered to express themselves honestly. It is counterproductive to fostering community when people, through threat of social ostracization or shaming, cannot speak on a subject as they understand it with their current knowledge. A person with an unpopular or uninformed view needs to be validated as a person, vis-a-vis his or her ability to express their point of view, before any productive or engaging conversation can be had. Thus, Parrhesia begins when a person walks through the door at UCN. The right to exercise the Parrhesia aspect of UCN does not come without some considerations. People may take the opportunity to be inflammatory or to, again, express unpopular views. It is incredibly important that UCN leaders, through the Isegoria aspect (equal expression) of Free Speech, subject these unpopular or inflammatory perspectives to scrutiny whenever they emerge during UCN discussions.

Consider that Parrhesia will also allow people not on the fringes of political viewpoints to express themselves too. UCN should not be an echo chamber; there should always be a healthy, respectful exchange of opposing views and alternative perspectives.