

Email received from Professor Roseneil 05.04.23

Dear Andrew Neish KC

Thank you for your recent email. The University has taken the contents of your substantive letter very seriously. As with all of our policies, we keep our Code of Practice under periodic review, and we will do so again if and when the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill becomes law.

I must disagree with your position that there is problem with a single person holding leadership responsibilities for both equality, diversity, and inclusion and freedom of speech. Indeed, I think it is vital that we do not accept suggestions that protecting and advancing freedom of speech and equality, diversity, and inclusion are in conflict. I have full confidence in Professor Ruebain's ability to fulfil both sets of responsibilities at the University of Sussex.

Since I became Vice-Chancellor, I have repeatedly emphasised my personal commitment to meeting our legal and regulatory obligations to uphold academic freedom and freedom of speech, and to promoting diversity of thought, discipline, and method, which are, which are foundational elements of the academic enterprise and university life.

I hope this link to a recent UUK podcast about free speech with Professor Ruebain, and the article (attached) that I published in The Times Higher Education in September 2022 (<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/sidestepping-challenging-texts-does-disservice-students>) substantiate these points. You might also wish to consider the evidence that I gave to the House of Commons Education Select Committee, at a session on free speech and research content in English universities, which took place on 7 September 2022. <https://parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/d17426b1-8c34-42db-b965-58f0b09de11b>

Yours sincerely

Sasha Roseneil

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