

**NUMBERED MEMO CC26-034**

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Community Colleges, Chairs of the Community College Boards of Trustees, Community College Presidents, Chief Academic Officers, Chief Admissions Officers, Basic Skills Directors, Business Officers, Continuing Education Officers, Customized Training Directors, Chief Financial Officers, Distance Learning, Financial Aid Officers, Personnel Officers, Student Development Administrators, Public Information Officers, Registrars, & Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** Jonnell Carpenter, *NCCCS General Counsel*

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Adoption of 1B SBCCC 600.1 – Campus Free Speech

**DATE:** July 21, 2026

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On July 17, 2026, the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) initiated the rulemaking process to adopt **1B SBCCC 600.1 – Campus Free Speech**. The proposed adoption would comply with Session Law 2026-21 which required the SBCC to adopt a policy on free speech at community colleges. The proposed adoption is published on the NC Community College System's website, [Numbered Memos - NCCCS \(ncccommunitycolleges.edu\)](https://ncccommunitycolleges.edu). For your convenience, a copy of the proposed rule, with the adopted language indicated, is attached to this memorandum. Strikethroughs indicate deletions of existing language and underlines indicate additions of language.

Any member of the public has the right to submit written comments on the proposed rule. Please note that any person who submits public comments on behalf of their community college should comply with their college's local process for submitting comments on a proposed rule. **Written comments on the rule must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 20, 2026.** Any member of the public has the right to request a hearing on the proposed rule. **Requests for a hearing must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 5, 2026.**

Written comments and requests for hearing shall be directed to the following address:  
Jonnell Carpenter, 5001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-5001 or by email to  
**[publiccomments@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:publiccomments@nccommunitycolleges.edu)**. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

CC26-034

Email Copy  
Attachment



# State Board of Community Colleges Code

## Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Form

Date: July 21, 2026

|                                                                                                         |                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Title, Chapter, Subchapter, and Rule Number of Rule Proposed to be Adopted, Amended, or Repealed</b> | Adoption of 1B SBCCC 600.1 – Campus Free Speech |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|

Specify whether the SBCC proposes to amend, adopt, or repeal a rule:

**Adopt**  
(new rule)

**Amend**  
(change existing rule)

**Repeal**  
(delete entire rule)

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| X |  |  |
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|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Rationale for proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal:</b> | This adoption is in response to Session Law 2026-21 which requires the State Board of Community Colleges to adopt a policy on free speech at community colleges. |
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|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Proposed Effective Date of Rule</b> | October 1, 2026 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|

1B SBCCC 600.1 is proposed for adoption as follows:



**State Board of Community Colleges Code**  
**TITLE 1. COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

**CHAPTER B. COLLEGE OPERATIONS**

**SUBCHAPTER 600. GENERAL COLLEGE OPERATIONS**

**1B SBCCC 600.1 Campus Free Speech**

Colleges shall not establish, maintain, or otherwise implement a process for reporting or investigating offensive or unwanted speech that is protected by the First Amendment, including satire or speech labeled as microaggression.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-6.1

Eff. \_\_\_\_\_.