

Memorandum

Re: Policy Statement on Academic Freedom, Electronic Communications and Social Media

Date: April 10, 2019

To: CAUT Council

From: David Robinson, Executive Director

The Librarians' and Archivists' Committee (L&A) reviewed the Policy Statement on Academic Freedom, Electronic Communications and Social Media in August 2018 and referred the policy to the Executive Committee for consideration.

The L&A Committee is recommending adding a paragraph (see new paragraph 6) to address issues related to the use of web and email filtering software. The Committee is aware that some institutions employ software filters to screen an incoming Web page or email message in order to determine whether some or all of the content should be displayed to the user. In many cases, software filters screen legitimate sites and messages. In the Committee's view, this poses a potential threat to academic freedom and free scholarly inquiry.

The second proposed change, in paragraph 5, is to replace the word 'form' with 'fora', to correct a typographical error.