

*The message we sent in the body of an email on May 19, 2024, four days after meeting with the Committee.*

Dear Safe Community Team,

We humbly submit the following as a suggestion for a just resolution to the current conflict. Our hope is that we can all agree to this.

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This process was triggered by various vague complaints, mostly anonymous, that two Elioteers expressed disagreement with Gender Ideology and that these opinions made the hearers feel “unsafe”. No assertion was made, nor was evidence offered that those complained against were anything other than civil and respectful when they expressed their opinions. Gender Ideology is the belief that a person’s sex is determined, not by biology, but by feelings and self ID.

1. We jointly recognize that civil, respectful disagreements between Elioteers are to be expected, and even encouraged. Such disagreements are not grounds for either party feeling “unsafe”. Apart from concrete threats of violence, words do not make us “unsafe”.

2. In the events leading up to the current process, those who were the target of complaints never sought to silence others or ban their thoughts and beliefs. Conversely, those who made the complaints sought to silence the individuals they accused and to prevent their heartfelt opinions from being aired or heard. This violates the Eliot Covenant where it directs us to “Consider the diverse perspectives and experiences that individuals bring to Eliot,” and to “Listen deeply to appreciate other people’s needs and points of view.” In a word, it is those who filed the complainants in this case, not the accused, who acted contrary to Eliot’s policies by trying to silence opinions they do not like.

3. Evidently, promises were made to the August Eliot speaker and to some individuals who identify as transgender who may attend the August camp. It is perfectly reasonable for these individuals to be promised, like all campers, that they would be welcomed and treated respectfully. However, if any promise was made, whether implied or explicit, that those who disagree with gender ideology would be excluded from camp or that, if allowed to attend, the views of those who disagree with gender ideology would be censored and suppressed at camp, such a promise was inappropriate and in violation of the Eliot Covenant.

4. Due to the importance of the principles explored in resolving this conflict, this resolution will be distributed to the entire Eliot community.

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Sincerely,

Bruce and Carol