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Policies Policies & Procedures

Expressive Activity

Policy on Expressive Activity - 6E1

I. Policy on Expressive Activity

This Policy applies to all buildings, grounds, and other spaces owned or controlled by Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). The term "Expressive Activity" includes:

- A. Meetings and other group activities of students and student organizations;
- B. Speeches, performances, demonstrations, rallies, vigils, and other events by members of the University community, including students, student organizations, and outside groups invited by student organizations;
- C. Distributions of literature, such as leafleting and pamphleting; and
- D. Any other expression protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

II. Policy Statement

SIUE property is primarily dedicated to academic, student life and administrative functions. But it also represents the "marketplace of ideas," and especially for students, many areas of campus represent a public forum for speech and other Expressive Activities. For members of the University community, including students and student organizations, the outdoor areas of campus are venues for free expression, including speeches, demonstrations, and the distribution of literature.

SIUE shall not consider the content or viewpoint of the expression or the possible reaction to that expression in applying this policy. SIUE shall not impose restrictions on students, student organizations, or University employees due to the content or viewpoint of their expression or the possible reaction to that expression. In the event that other persons react negatively to a student's, student organization's, or University employee's expression, SIUE (including University police) shall take necessary steps to ensure public safety while allowing the Expressive Activity to continue.

No event or Expressive Activity shall be permitted to violate or hinder the rights of others within the campus community.

SIUE does not assume any obligation or responsibility for the content of statements or materials distributed.

III. Rules and Regulations

A. General Rules

Subject to the additional rules set forth herein, members of the University community, including students and student organizations shall be allowed to conduct Expressive Activities on SIUE property as long as such activity:

1. Does not block access to campus buildings.
2. Does not obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
3. Does not constitute unlawful activity.
4. Does not create a clear and present threat to public safety.
5. Does not take place in a location that has been previously reserved by another individual or group.
6. Is conducted by a non-commercial entity.
7. Does not disrupt the conduct of University business, including educational instruction, due to excessive noise.
8. Ensures distribution of printed materials must be done in person. At least one member from each registered student organization must be present to distribute the printed materials.
9. Ensures individuals and/or groups engaged in Expressive Activity are responsible for picking up any printed materials dropped on the ground around the areas of distribution. SIUE may charge such individuals and/or groups a reasonable clean up fee if they fail to do so.
10. Ensures individuals and/or groups engaging in Expressive Activity agree to pay for any damages to SIUE property that is caused by their use of such property.

This policy shall not apply to any person or organizations desiring to sell merchandise or services on campus. Such activities are governed by the SIUE Solicitation Policy, which can be found at <https://www.siu.edu/policies/6a4.shtml>.

B. Spontaneous Activities in Outdoor Locations

For outdoor campus facilities and areas, members of the University community, including students, student organizations, and their sponsored guests may freely engage in spontaneous Expressive Activities provided that such activities are in compliance with all other provisions of this Policy, and the Kimmel Student Involvement Center Student Organization Handbook, if applicable, which may be found at <http://www.siu.edu/kimmel/organizations/index.shtml>.

C. Spontaneous Activities in Indoor Locations

For indoor campus facilities and areas, members of the University community, including students, student organizations, and their sponsored guests may freely engage in spontaneous Expressive Activities subject to the following conditions:

1. Expressive Activities may only be conducted in locations that do not interfere with the educational mission of the university, or other University business, as determined by the University.
2. The Expressive Activities are in compliance with all other provisions of this policy.

D. Reserving Campus Facilities

1. 1. If students, student organizations, or University employees desire to reserve indoor or outdoor campus facilities, they shall submit their application for reservation to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration (or the Morris University Center (MUC) Event Services Office for reservation of space within the MUC) at least three business days prior to the reservation date. SIUE will respond to the reservation application within two business days.
2. If individuals or organizations who are not members of the university community (i.e., not students, student organizations, or university employees) desire to reserve campus facilities, they shall submit their application for reservation to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration, (or the Morris University Center (MUC) Event Services Office for reservation of space within the MUC) at least three business days prior to the reservation date. SIUE will respond to the reservation application within two business days. Reservations can be made up to 30 days in advance in order to allow priority reservations for students, student organizations, employees, and University sponsored activities.
3. If applicable, information regarding the cost of indoor facilities will be provided to the requestor.
4. Reservation requests for outdoor locations shall identify the specific location in the application, and not include more than a 50 feet radius, without an explanation justifying why additional space is needed.
5. Reservation requests will be processed and granted on a first-come, first-served basis. These requests may be denied for the following reasons only:
 1. The request conflicts with restrictions enacted pursuant to this Policy (denial must specify);
 2. The venue is already reserved for another event;
 3. The activity will attract a crowd larger than the venue can safely contain;
 4. The activity is a clear and present threat to public safety, according to University Police;
 5. The activity is unlawful;
 6. The activity is inherently likely to provoke a violent response towards another person, encourage others to commit criminal acts, or constitutes harassment;
 7. The requestor, and/or a member of the requestor's group, has previously violated this Policy in past activities; or
 8. If spaces previously reserved pursuant to this Policy have gone unused (intended to prevent individuals from reserving space for the sole purpose of denying the availability of space for others).
6. During an event, the student, student organization, University employee or sponsor requesting the reservation is responsible for the conduct of any co-presenter(s) and for preserving and maintaining the facility it reserved. If it causes any damage to those facilities, the person(s) or organization (and its officers, if applicable) shall assume responsibility.

[1] In the event that multiple individuals or organizations submit conflicting reservation requests, the following order of precedence shall govern: (1) official university sponsored activities and events; (2) recognized student organization activities and events; (3) student activities and events; and (4) all other activities and events.

E. Amplification

1. The compact nature of the University core necessitates a general policy of sound control, that (1) protects academic programs and the conduct of other University business from the intrusion of sound created outside University structures, and (2) provides the opportunity for the appropriate use of amplification for activities in outdoor areas of the campus.
2. It shall be the general policy of the University that the academic programs and learning spaces be given maximum protection from intrusion of sound created outside University structures. Therefore, amplification of any type which interferes with classroom instruction, student learning, or normal University operations will not be allowed in outdoor areas of the campus when classes are in session.
3. To avoid interference with the conduct of University business, the decibel level of the amplification should not exceed 70 dBs (within 10 feet from the source of sound), and the use of a siren or similar emergency sounds in amplification equipment used in activities is prohibited at all times except by University police.
4. Exceptions to the decibel level are allowed for University sponsored activities.

F. Reporting

Any suspected violations of this policy should be reported to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration at 618-650-2536 or University Police at 618-650-3324. The SIUE Police Department should be contacted for any immediate threat.

Approved by Chancellor effective 11/25/2020

This policy was issued on November 30, 2020 replacing the February 6, 2018, version.

Document Reference: 6E1

Origin: OP 10/23/84 and OC 10/30/84; OP 11/5/90 and OC 11/14/90; OP 8/2/95; OC 8/13/07; OC 6/26/13; OC 8/7/17; OC 1/29/18; OC 11/25/20



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