



Office of the President
University Policy

SUBJECT: Campus Free Speech	Effective Date: 4-30-18 Amended: 7-9-24	Policy Number: 4.2.2	
	Supersedes: Designated Public Forums Policy 4.2.2	Page 1	Of 3
	Responsible Authority: Vice President, Administrative Affairs Vice President, Student Affairs		

APPLICABILITY:

This policy is applicable to all members of the University community, including all students, faculty, staff and all visitors to the University or any of its campuses, facilities or events.

POLICY:

I. Introduction. University grounds may generally be used for demonstrations and other exercises of free speech and assembly. Such use must be lawful and may not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the University or infringe on the rights of others. All general requirements for use of University buildings and grounds, access to University property, and distributions of printed materials set forth in University policies and regulations apply to uses of University grounds under this policy.

II. General Use Guidelines: Any individual, group or organization desiring to exercise free speech and assembly on University grounds may do so under the following conditions:

- (a) No campus buildings, other indoor facilities, or athletic or recreational facilities may be used for demonstrations or assemblies unless specifically permitted in writing by the campus authority responsible for the building or facility.
- (b) Organizations and persons may organize, conduct, or participate in demonstrations and other exercises of free speech and assembly on University grounds, except:
 - a. Grounds immediately adjacent to residential facilities;

- b. Grounds associated with the Baldwin House;
 - c. Athletic and recreational fields, including any facilities operated by Campus Recreation;
 - d. Grounds immediately adjacent to University buildings where such use could impair entrance to or exit from the building or interfere with activities within the buildings;
 - e. Grounds within 200 feet of University facilities and property being used as child care centers, elementary schools, middle schools, or high schools; and
 - f. University streets and roadways.
- (c) All organizations and persons organizing or conducting demonstrations and other exercises of free speech and assembly on University grounds, or otherwise conducting activities or events in University facilities, must abide by the general requirement that such activities must be lawful and may not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the University or infringe on the rights of others. All organizations and persons organizing or conducting demonstrations and other exercises of free speech and assembly shall comply with the directions of a University official acting in the performance of his or her duty. In order that demonstrations and other exercises of free speech and assembly not materially and substantially disrupt the operation of the University or the rights of others, any person or organization organizing, conducting, leading, or participating in a demonstration, assembly, or activity using University grounds or other facilities shall not:
- a. Obstruct vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian traffic;
 - b. Obstruct entrances or exits to buildings or driveways or impede entry to or exit from any building or parking lot or vehicular path;
 - c. Interfere with educational, research or administrative activities inside or outside any building;
 - d. Violate a law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or University policy;
 - e. Engage in physically abusive or threatening conduct towards any person;
 - f. Obstruct, disrupt, or attempt or physically force the cancellation or continuance of a speaker;
 - g. Interfere with scheduled University ceremonies or events;
 - h. Damage property;
 - i. Utilize sound amplification;
 - j. Wear any mask, hood, or device whereby any portion of the face is hidden, concealed, or covered for purposes of concealing the identity of the wearer;
 - k. Occupy space overnight;
 - l. Engage in such activities, unrelated to a contemporaneous University event, between the hours of 10:00pm and 8:00am;
 - m. Occupy any gated or limited access areas after permitted access hours;
 - n. Erect permanent or semi-permanent structures; or
 - o. Create a safety hazard.

III. Disruptive Action. If a demonstration is materially and substantially disrupting normal University operations or infringing on the rights of other members of the University community contrary to the requirements of this policy and related regulations and policies, the Vice President, Administrative Affairs or the Vice President, Student Affairs, or their respective designees, may:

- (a) Request that the violation cease which may include relocation of the activity; and
- (b) Enlist the assistance of the University Police in restoring order and enforcing the law.

As necessary, the University Police may:

- i. Declare a demonstration or assembly to be disruptive, disorderly, or in violation of law and request all participants cease and desist and clear the area; and/or
- ii. Direct persons to leave the campus immediately or be subject to a trespass order pursuant to Regulation 7.006 and/or arrest.

INITIATING AUTHORITY: Vice President, Administrative Affairs

POLICY APPROVAL
(For use by the Office of the President)

Policy Number: 4.2.2

Initiating Authority

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: Dr. Stacy Volnick

Policies and Procedures

Review Committee Chair

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: Eric Centner

President

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: Dr. Stacy Volnick

Executed signature pages are available in the Office of Compliance