

# **POLICY FOR SPECIAL LIGHTING AND WATER SHOWS FOR FOUNTAINS AND TOWER**

*Reviewed and endorsed by President's Executive Committee 10/6/2014*

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The University at Albany's beautifully restored and upgraded fountains and central water tower are capable of providing special lighting and water "shows" which can enhance the student and visitor experience and celebrate current and emerging campus traditions. The new technology installed in certain features of these facilities allows programming of near infinite combinations of colors and/or and water streams. Accordingly, special requests for lighting and/or water shows – from either internal or external groups or organizations – will likely emerge; and to ensure consistency in process and application of use of these features, all such requests must be approved by the Vice President for Finance and Administration under the guidance provided herein.

## **PURPOSE**

This policy is intended to clarify the process and criteria for allowable water and/or lighting "shows", balancing the capabilities of the technology with respect and sensitivity to the University as first and foremost a public place of higher learning.

## **BACKGROUND AND DEFINITIONS**

The term "show" denotes any setting of lights and/or fountain jets regardless of the duration. A "synchronized show" refers to the main fountain, where lights and water jets can be orchestrated, sometimes to music, as described below.

*The fountain and tower features applied to this policy include the following:*

### **Entry Plaza fountain**

Fountain can be turned on or off. Water heights are strictly vertical, tied to wind speed. No computer programmable lighting features.

### **Main fountain**

The main fountain can be programmed for synchronized shows, lights and water jets, and to music with a separate stand-alone system. The fountain includes 48 water jets on center ring and four center feature jets, each individually computer programmable as to water height and duration of spray. Jets also include individually programmable LED lighting. (All LED lighting mentioned herein has virtually unlimited color settings). The outer field, or floor, of fountain includes 95 programmable LED lights. The entire facility can be programmed to seemingly infinite combinations of static or animated shows, potentially set to music, if a separate computer/audio system were installed.

*While there are potentially limitless combinations of shows, it should be noted that the software controlling fountain heights and colors involves hours of staff time to customize and requires trial-and-error observation to confirm operations. Any requests for customization must consider this staff time and expense.*

### Water tower

Base of water tower includes 32 programmable LED lights and top of tower (in Carillon cage) there are eight programmable LED lights. The Carillon also includes 16 speakers which can broadcast virtually any type of audio recording. The Carillon is not considered to be used for any main fountain music-synchronized shows given its height and its wide dispersion of sound, potentially disrupting other campus operations or events.

### Campus Center fountain

Fountain water jets can be manually set, as a group, for varying water heights. The 24 LED lights in the fountain can be programmed for near infinite combinations of colors.

### Science Library (or "Parent's Fountain")

Water is turned on or off, as are lights. Height of water can be manually adjusted.

### RULES FOR LIGHTING AND WATER SHOWS

1. University themed colors of purple, gold, and/or white lights are permitted and assumed to be standard or "default" settings.
2. For the main fountain, a static water height of approximately 4 feet is assumed to be the default setting, high enough to provide animation, but not so high as to splash or be influenced by wind.
3. From time-to-time, the "Fountain Programming Committee" described below, will create and recommend new and amended shows for the main fountain, adding to those already created and those that have been pre-authorized (see below).
4. Internal or external requests for new or amended shows shall only be approved under truly exceptional circumstances, acknowledging that scores of worthy groups have a special color, event, or idea that would be wonderful to display, but would be both burdensome to implement and, more importantly, difficult to control for the purposes of equity and in the preservation of fairness.
5. The Facilities Office is responsible for the care, maintenance, and implementation of fountain and tower settings and new/amended programming. Any deviations from existing, approved shows must consider the time and resources necessary for the work.

### APPROVED SHOWS

The following are approved shows (of lights and/or water jets). This list, which shall be updated from time to time, does not mandate that such shows are displayed, only that they are available to be implemented should direction be provided by the Vice President for Finance and Administration or his/her designee.

Holiday themes	-Independence Day (red-white-blue themes) -Veteran's Day (red-white-blue themes) -Memorial Day (red-white-blue themes)
University traditions	-Candle lighting ceremony (special purple and gold) -Commencement (special purple, gold, and jet settings) -Homecoming (special purple, gold, and jet settings)
School Spirit	-Big Purple Growl (special purple colors) -Varsity notable game or result (special purple theme)

<p>Main fountain animation programming (displaying capabilities of synchronized shows)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-“School spirit” show with purple and gold and varying heights of water</li> <li>-“Spring, Summer, Winter, and Fall” seasonal variations of lights and water heights</li> <li>-“Sophisticated” show with relaxed, less color variation and lower water heights, more appropriate for events with speakers or designed for casual conversation</li> <li>-Other synchronized shows as time, programming allow</li> </ul>
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**FOUNTAIN PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE**

This group consists of the following members and is tasked with reviewing and approving synchronized light and water shows in the main fountain under the direction of the AVP for Facilities, consistent with the policy articulated herein:

1. Chair, AVP for Facilities or appointee (currently Director Campus Planning)
2. Director of Art Museum (also a standing member of Advisory Planning, Architecture, and Aesthetics Committee)
3. Faculty member from Theater Department with lighting expertise
4. Appointee from the Division of Student Success
5. Appointee from Office of Communications and Marketing (currently Director of Marketing)
6. Student representative

The composition of this group may change from time-to-time based on the recommendation and approval of the Vice President for Finance and Administration.

**EXCEPTIONS**

In rare instances, the President, in consultation with the Vice President for Finance and Administration, may grant exceptions to this policy.