



Student Organization Protest Activity Planning

University Policy for Freedom of Expression

http://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/requirements_policy_freedom_expression.htm

- The University reaffirms its commitment to the principle that the widest possible scope for freedom of expression is the foundation of an institution dedicated to vigorous inquiry, robust debate, and the continuous search for a proper balance between freedom and order. The University seeks to foster an environment in which persons who are on its campus legitimately may express their views as widely and as passionately as possible; at the same time, the University pledges to provide the greatest protection available for controversial, unpopular, dissident, or minority opinions. The University believes that censorship is always suspect, that intimidation is always repugnant, and that attempts to discourage constitutionally protected expression may be antithetical to the University's essential missions: to discover new knowledge and to educate.
- All persons on University-controlled premises are bound by the Rules and Regulations for Maintenance of Public Order, which deal in part with freedom of expression (adopted by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York June 18, 1969; amended 1969, 1980). Members of the University community should familiarize themselves with those rules and regulations. In addition, University faculty are protected by and bound by Article XI, Title I, Sec. 1 of the Policies of the Board of Trustees (adopted January 1987), entitled "Academic Freedom."
- University officials or other members of the University community in a position to review posters, publications, speakers, performances, or any other form of expression may establish legitimate time, place, and manner regulations for the maintenance of an orderly educational environment; however, they may not prohibit expression for any reason related to the content of the expression, except as permitted in those narrow areas of expression devoid of federal or state constitutional protection.
- Speakers invited to campus by University groups or individuals, and other speakers who may be legitimately present on campus, will be given the utmost protection to communicate their messages without disruptive harassment or interference. Opponents to those speakers enjoy the same protections for expressing their dissent.
- All members of the University community share the duty to support, protect, and extend the commitment to the principle of freedom of expression, and to discuss this commitment with groups or individuals who seek to take part in University life. While all persons may seek to discourage peacefully speech that may be unnecessarily offensive to particular individuals or groups, speech that may be antithetical to the University's values, those persons must support the legal right of free speech.



Organizing a Safe, Effective Protest Activity

- Contact [the Student Organization Resource Center](#) (SORC) in Campus Center 110A and a staff member will contact you within 24 hours to discuss the proposed event. Full disclosure regarding the nature of the program is essential.
- In the event that the proposed activity is planned in direct response to a current event, the Office of Student Involvement realizes that there may be a need to proceed in a timely fashion. In such cases, the event organizer should meet as soon as possible with a liaison in SORC or stop by the Student Involvement office in CC 130 in order to coordinate the activity.

Important Things to Consider When Organizing a Protest Activity

- The use of amplified sound will only be permitted when it will not be disruptive of any University programs and as long as it is consistent with the University's Sound Policy.
- Protesters must not intimidate participants of other programs nor prohibit the successful implementation of another group's event.
- Picket signs will not be permitted inside University facilities.
- Students whose conduct disrupts authorized University activities or programs will be required to leave the event and will be subject to University judicial action