

Expression and Dissent

The speaker's right of expression and the audience's right to listen take precedence.

While students are encouraged to maintain an open mind during a speaker's presentation, there may be instances where attendees will not agree with the spoken or displayed viewpoint of the speaker. This notion is why free speech must be protected for every student and member of the University community. Students may dissent peacefully during the event.

However, if the dissent interferes with any audience member's ability to hear or view the speaker, impedes the ability of the audience to move freely, or causes or threatens to cause imminent harm to the audience, speaker, or the University community at-large, police and/or University staff may intervene and reposition or remove offending person(s) from the event.

Behavior that violates the law or the University's Student Code of Conduct may result in arrest and/or the issuance of sanctions by the University. In addition, nothing herein restricts the University from responding appropriately to obscenity, fighting words, defamation (includes libel and slander), child pornography, incitement to imminent lawless action, true threats, or solicitations to commit crimes.

Peaceful, orderly, and nondestructive picketing, protests, and demonstrations, include but are not limited to:

- **Picketing/Literature:** Picketing in an orderly way or distributing literature outside the meeting is acceptable so long as it does not impede access to the meeting. Distributing literature inside an open meeting is acceptable before the meeting is called to order and after the meeting is adjourned. Signs attached to rigid supports or frames are prohibited inside campus buildings. No activities shall impede pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic nor unreasonably disrupt regular or authorized activities in classrooms, offices, laboratories and other University facilities or grounds.
- **Silent or Symbolic Protest:** Protesting noiselessly, such as displaying a sign, wearing clothing, gesturing, or standing, is acceptable so long as the protest does not interfere with the audience's view or prevent the audience from hearing or listening to the speaker. Any use of signs, prolonged standing, or other activity likely to block the view of anyone in the audience must be positioned in the back or along the sides of the room, if space is available.
- **Noise:** Chanting or making other sustained or repeated noise in a manner which substantially interferes with the speaker's communication is not permitted, whether inside or outside the meeting. Noise making devices are prohibited.
- **Force or Violence:** Using or threatening force or violence, such as defacing a sign or assailing a speaker or a member of the audience, is never permitted.

Enforcement

University Police and/or University staff may reposition and/or remove any person who impedes the ability of attendees to view, hear, or participate in the speaker event, or who possibly violates the law or the Student Code of Conduct. Conditions that may lead to such intervention include, but are not limited to:

- Any verbal or nonverbal action that disrupts the speaker's ability to present their message and the audience's ability to receive the message.
- Any verbal or nonverbal action that interferes with or impedes the movement of those in attendance, or the speaker(s).
- Any verbal or nonverbal action that causes or threatens to cause injury to any attendee, the speaker(s), or property.
- Any verbal or nonverbal action that impacts the imminent health or safety of attendees, the speaker(s), or the University community-at-large.

Order to Disperse

If a law enforcement officer issues a dispersal order, everyone in the immediate area described in the order must leave.