

# POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR OUTSIDE SPEAKERS

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# YOUR COMMITTEE



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# TODAY'S AGENDA

- + Our current Policy
- + The Proposed New Policy
- + Guidelines for Responding to Controversial Speakers



## RECENT EVENTS

A recent controversial speaker cause problems amongst the audience.

We can be prepared for dealing with high risk controversial speakers.



## A 2017 STUDY FOUND...

- + All students along the ideological spectrum have concerns about free expression on campus
- + Only 1% of students would disrupt a speaker with violent action

Martinez, J. (2017). Only 1 Percent of Students Would Consider Disrupting Speakers Violently, Survey Finds. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Oct 11, 2017.





# OUR CURRENT POLICY

- We currently do not impose limitations on registered campus organizations regarding who they can invite to speak on campus
- If any high risk situations occur we will act accordingly to control the situation
- There is not a set of procedures for registered campus organizations to request outside speakers
- There is not a set of procedures to follow in high risk situations

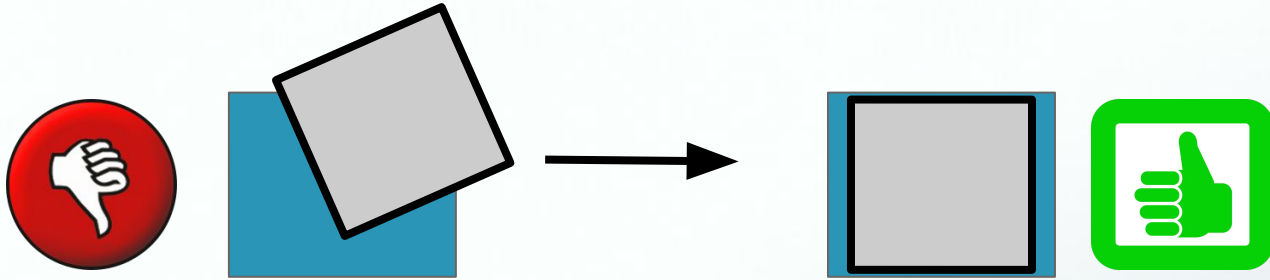






“The times are a-changing.” – Albert  
Longbottom





WE MUST ADAPT!



## PROPOSED POLICY STATEMENT

Our University is committed to providing students with opportunities to express their freedom of speech. We believe that if differing ideas are offered, a wealth of information can be shared and new ideas can be created. This is an essential aspect of how students develop and become successful members of society. To make these experiences as effective as possible our university reserves the right to place limits on outside speakers that wish to visit our campus through an application and approval process.



# PROPOSED POLICY REASONING

## University Mission

By enacting this policy we are ensuring that the university mission is upheld and that all campus visitors respect the mission

## Safety

The limitations that this policy will put in place will make sure that the safety of our students is the top priority and will minimize high risk situations

## Procedures

This policy will create a procedure that student organizations and outside speakers will be required to follow which will offer the university choice of who speaks publicly on-campus



## PROPOSED POLICY DEFINITIONS:

**Campus Sponsored Organization or Group:** An organization or group that is officially registered with the university and is approved by the university to operate on-campus

**Outside Speaker:** An individual, organization, or group that is not affiliated with the university

**University Sponsor:** A university registered campus organization, group, or department that sponsors an outside speaker



# PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

## Guest must be sponsored by an Institutional Organization or Group.

When an organization or group funded through the institution invites a guest speaker, lecturer, or public figure onto campus, the group is responsible for notifying Campus Communications one month prior to event. The organization or group must provide Campus Communications with the name of guest, the time and place of event, and the goal and purpose of speech.

## If Campus Communication believes Speaker could cause Controversy:

If guest causes controversy or safety concerns, Response Committee will be notified by Campus Communications.



## RESPONSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- President
- Dean of Student Life
- Director of Communications
- Head of Campus Safety
- Local Police
- Head of Student Government







## FORMS INCLUDE:

- Date and Time of Event
- Goal or Purpose of Speaker
- Sponsoring Organization or Group
- Lead Sponsor's Contact Information
- Date Request Filed





# HOW CAN WE INTENTIONALLY PREPARE FOR CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS?

Training for all staff and faculty on  
our controversial speaker  
preparation guidelines



# PREPARATION FOR A CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKER

Be Aware of  
Concerns

Flag and  
Inform

Respond with  
Speech



## BE AWARE OF CONCERNS

Communications staff  
must always know the  
tone of students  
concerns

- follow social media
- receive all complaints
- know the views of  
students



**CONTROVERSIAL  
EVENTS OR  
SPEAKERS  
SHOULD NEVER BE  
A SURPRISE**

## THINGS TO MONITOR

- Counter protest events
- Complaints on social media, in person, or over email
- Heated arguments
- Violent threats
- Hate speech



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# INFORM RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Communications staff must track and flag concerns about speakers and inform the response committee when a speak may be controversial.

## Response Committee

- President
- Dean of Student Life
- Director of Communications
- Head of Campus Safety
- Local Police
- Head of Student Government

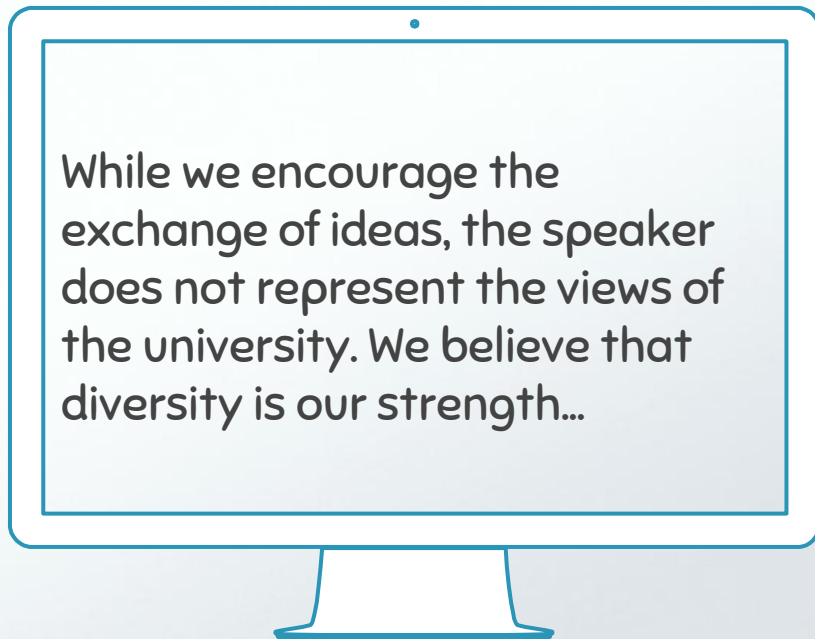




# RESPOND WITH SPEECH

The Response Committee can draft a statement before and after a controversial speaker to communicate the University's view.

While we encourage the exchange of ideas, the speaker does not represent the views of the university. We believe that diversity is our strength...







# NEVER BE SILENT

- A controversial speaker should never be the only voice heard on campus.
- The university response may include:
  - Denouncing hate speech
  - Ensuring that we value our diversity
  - Restating the mission
  - Support freedom of speech and the exchange of ideas
  - Stating speakers do not represent the views of the University



## IN ALL CONTROVERSIAL CASES:

- Campus Safety and Police must be a part of all decisions
- Student representatives should be aware of steps taken
- Official statements should come from the top.





## WHAT IS NEXT?

We will be training all departments on the policy and guidelines for response.

Contacts:

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# REFERENCES

Harris, V., & Ray, D. (2014). Hate speech & the college campus: Considerations for entry level student affairs practitioners. *Race, Gender & Class*, 21(1/2), 185-194.

Martinez, J. (2017). Only 1 percent of students would consider disrupting speakers violently, survey finds. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Oct 11, 2017.

Mccarthy, C. (2016). Balance institutional mission, values with free speech rights on your campus. *Student Affairs Today*, 19(1), 1-3.

