



# **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**

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St. Ivermornny University

*tempora mutantur*

# Revisions to University Guest Speaker Policy: A Guide for Administrators

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# Institutional Overview

Saint Ilvermorny University is a private, midsize institution (9000 undergraduates), located in the outskirts of an large midwestern city.

SIU is currently non-sectarian university, though it was founded as a Christian university in 1896.

School colors are violet and white, and our Fighting Owls compete in NCAA Division II.

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# Current Policy on Outside Speakers: Last Revised

**Oct. 2011**

Student organizations that are recognized by the Office of Student Engagement (OSE) are able to invite external speakers to University sponsored events via the following process:

1. Submit event description, event flyer, name of speaker, to the OSE one week prior to event.
2. Request event space reservation to OSE after receipt of event approval.

\*Internal approval processes currently managed by Graduate Assistant for Programming under the supervision of the Assistant Director for Student Engagement.

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# Goals for 2018 Policy Revision

- Increase administrative oversight of student-club sponsored events in order to anticipate and prepare for possible contingencies.
- Create accountability and assessment standards to evaluate efficacy of policy, incorporating student and departmental feedback.
- Institute productive and growth-focused preventative & reactionary procedures in the case of non-compliance.

# Examples from other Universities

- **New York University**
  - NYU makes various determinations regarding security and use of moderator by consultation of senior student life staff.
  - Allows for students to exercise free speech while ensuring safety and oversight from the university.
- **University of Florida**
  - In response to controversial speaker Richard Spencer speaking on campus, UFL released this website for the community (<https://freespeech.ufl.edu/qa-for-1019-event/>). This website includes an FAQ and guidelines for campus safety on the day of the event
  - Allows for controversial events to occur while keeping the community safe and opening up a dialogue with the campus as a whole.

# Preventative Strategy Pt. 1: Speaker's Guidelines

In order to have productive dialogues on campus and engage in an inquiry of academic knowledge, speakers' ideas must be rooted on informed knowledge (i.e. research, empirical patterns of thought) and,

- Engage with research
- Raise critical questions
- Engage constructively w/ alternative perspectives
- Value collaboration over competition

(Sensoy & DiAngelo, 2014)

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# Preventative Strategy Pt.2: Speaker Request Guidelines

Student Groups will submit:

- Speaker's biography & abstract of speaker's speech
- Demonstrate "Speakers' Guidelines" are met
  - Student groups will write how their speaker meets each guideline (250 max words for each)

Student Groups who do not meet speaker guidelines-

- Meet w/ OSE club coordinator to discuss how the speaker ties into the mission of their club
- Student groups will be given the opportunity to bring speaker through a moderated dialogue

**\*\*\*** Moderator to be a faculty from the student groups' choice **\*\*\***

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# Logistical Preparation

In the event that a speaker is expected to garner a large number of participants (*i.e. our largest events spaces have been reserved, faculty club advisors express concern, speaker has drawn previous controversy, etc.*) a logistical meeting will take place and involve:

- Representation from:
  - Club Executive Board
  - Faculty Advisor
  - Security
  - Facilities Services
- Discussion will include:
  - Emergency exit procedures
  - Potential necessity for faculty/advisor mediation at event

# Sanctions

- If the organization followed the policy correctly, but there is still an incident requiring follow-up at the event, the organization will not be formally sanctioned.
  - The organization will work to open a dialogue with the Office of Student Engagement to address the concerns raised, though there will be no punitive measures taken provided all policies have been followed
- If the event request is not submitted on time or submitted incorrectly before the event occurs, the event must be moderated by an SIU faculty member.
  - This will allow the event to proceed, though the addition of an SIU faculty as the moderator will add the additional line of defense against potential issues.
- If the event happens without any policies being followed, the organization risks budget reductions and/or losing room reservation rights.

# Assessment and Accountability Measures

September: Student Leader Training

- ❑ Process to request a guest speaker
- ❑ Reserving space for events

Early November: Fall Town Hall

- ❑ Mid-semester check-in to go over any issues/concerns with revised guidelines
- ❑ Will include representatives from Facility and Event Services

April: Spring Town Hall

- ❑ Discuss strengths and weaknesses of revised policy to be used for consideration in Year 2 implementation

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