

Fawkes University

GUIDE TO IMPROVING

**FREE  
SPEECH**

**A PROPOSED UPDATE  
FOR OFF-CAMPUS  
SPEAKERS**

Presented by Stephen F. Austin State University  
Megan Kelley, Team Leader - Connor Clark - Amber Fountain

# MEET THE COMMITTEE



**Megan Kelley**

Chair,  
1st year Graduate student  
Stephen F. Austin State University



**Amber Fountain**

1st year Graduate student  
Stephen F. Austin State University

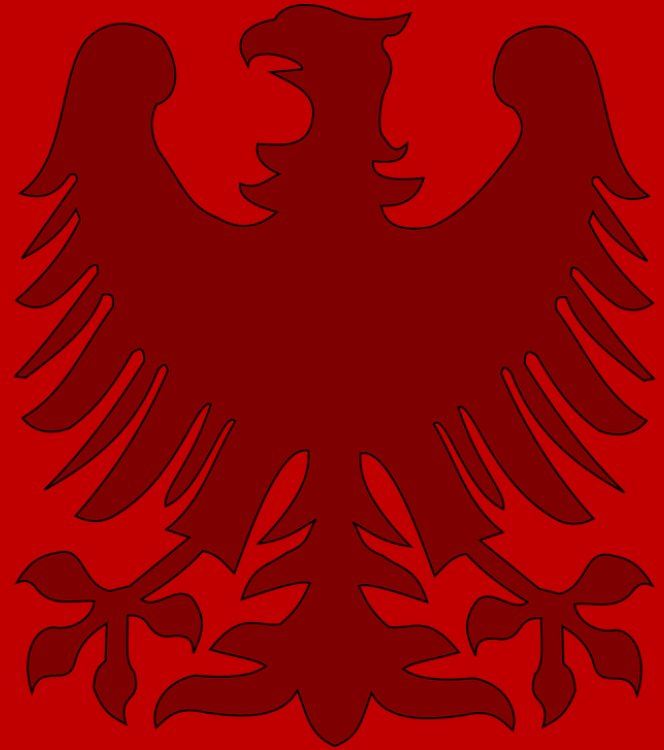


**Connor Clark**

1st year Graduate student  
Stephen F. Austin State University

# Agenda

- Our Purpose
- Fawkes University
- Previous Issues
- Consideration
- Current Practices
- Proposed Changes



# Purpose of the Committee

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Our goal is to improve the practices and procedures currently in place for Freedom of Speech on campus, specifically for Off-Campus speakers and groups while adhering to the University's mission.

To make practices more cohesive, easy to understand, and equally applicable. To protect the rights of all participants, regardless of viewpoint while maintaining a non-violent environment.



# Why Free Speech on Campus is Important:

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Students have the right to express themselves, or present guest speakers to the campus community. It is our duty to ensure the safety of our students while remaining viewpoint-neutral.

# Fawkes University

Established: 1832  
Public University  
Enrollment: 10,472  
Student Organizations: 154

Indoor Events: 75

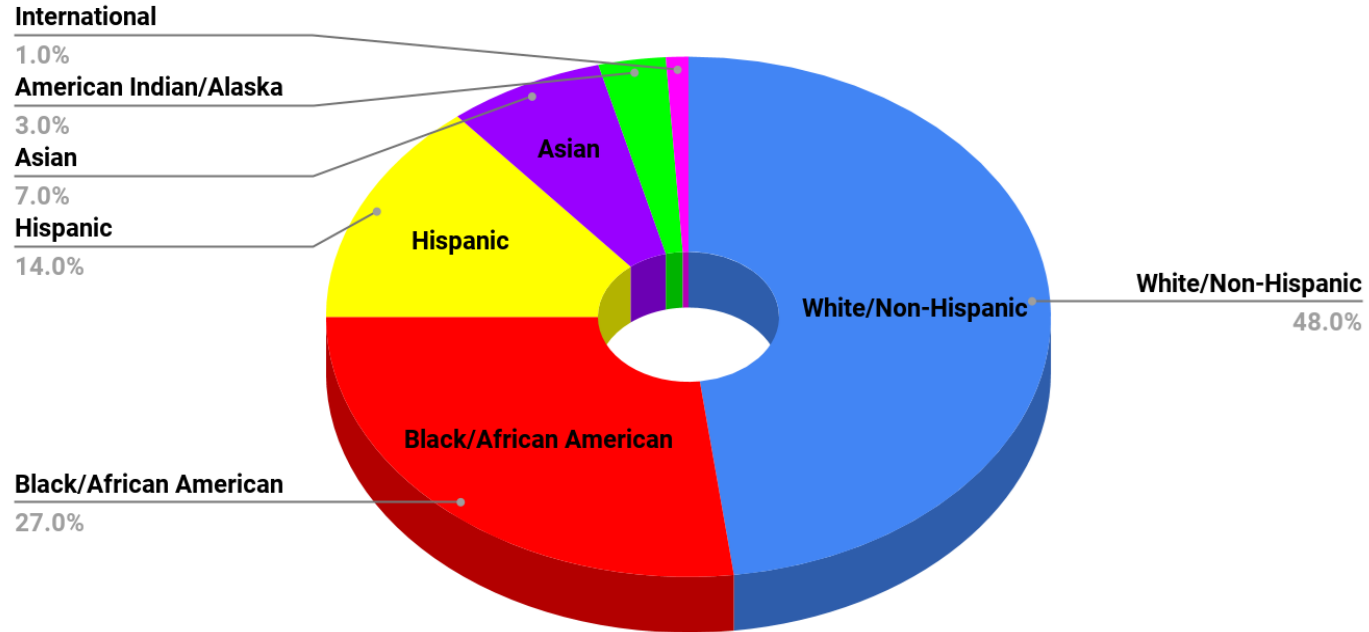
Outdoor Events: 62

## Recent Controversial Events

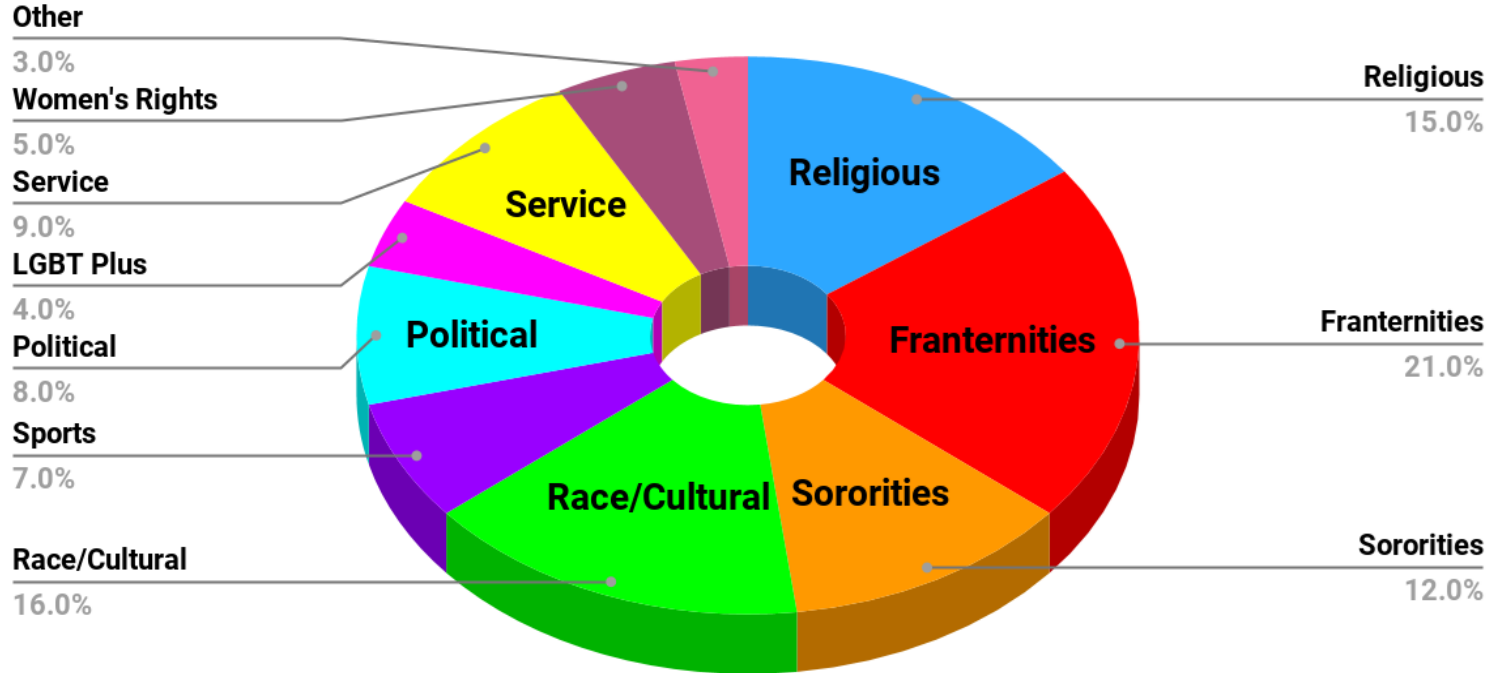
- Planned Parenthood
- Westboro Baptist Church
- Young Republicans Of Texas
- Democrats of America
- Women's Equal Rights Movement
- Black Lives Matter

# FAWKES UNIVERSITY BREAKDOWN

Race/Ethnicity Fall 2017



# Registered Clubs/Organizations on Campus





# ISSUES WITH SPEAKERS/EVENTS

## Fawkes University

- Physical Altercation
- Interrupted Speaking Events
- Failure to complete paperwork

## Other Institutions

Charlottesville

Texas Southern University

North Carolina

Middlebury

University of California - Berkeley

# Considerations

First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

State Laws

Free speech advocate groups

Regulate the time, place, and manner of the event

Safety

University Reputation

“...education should not be intended to make people comfortable, it is meant to make them think.” -Hanna Holborn Gray, former President of the University of Chicago

# Headline News

## The Death of College Free-Speech Zones

State legislatures are banning spaces colleges have carved out for free expression and protest that many consider restrictive.

By [Jeremy Dauer-Wolf](#) // February 2, 2018

11 COMMENTS

## Texas Lawmakers Weigh the Limits of Free Speech on Campus

By [Katherine Mangan](#) | JANUARY 31, 2018 PREMIUM

SAN MARCOS, TEX.



Ray Janner, Austin American-Statesman via AP Images



## Florida lawmakers want stronger college free speech rules amid First Amendment flareups



University of Florida campus in Gainesville

## Campus free speech bill becomes law in North Carolina

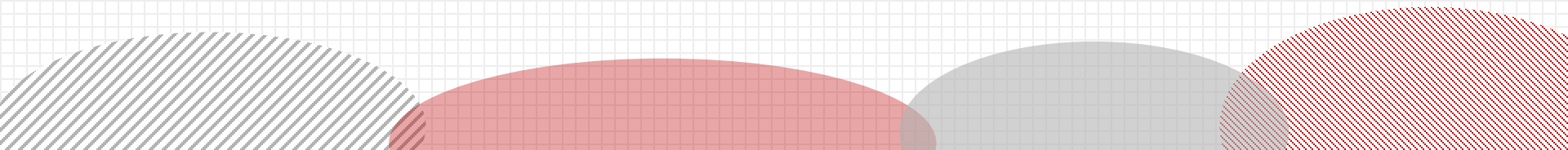
By [Tyler Coward](#) August 1, 2017

[House Bill 527](#), the North Carolina legislation aimed at improving protections for free speech on public college campuses in the state, [became law](#) yesterday. The bill garnered bipartisan support, passing the state's Senate 34-11 and the House of Representatives 80-31.

Sponsored by Reps. Christopher Mills and Jonathan Jordan, the legislation includes several important provisions that will better protect [campus free speech](#).

# Current Procedures & Policies at Fawkes Univ.

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- Speakers and organizations outside the institution may hold events on campus without a student organization sponsor.
  - Paperwork must be completed five days prior to indoor event.
  - Paperwork for outdoor events must be completed three days prior.
  - Events must be held in reservable space on campus, unless they have made proper reservations with Event Services.
  - Paper applications must be submitted by guest(s) speakers and turned into the Director of Student Engagement Office.
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# Committee Process

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- Due to a physical altercation at a recent indoor event, a policy window presented itself.
- The Vice President of Student Affairs recommended that the Dean of Students assemble a committee to make suggestions to free speech guidelines.
- Research was collected from other institutions to aid in creating acceptable guidelines for Fawkes University.
- The committee took into consideration Fawkes University's breakdown of diverse population and registered clubs/organizations.

With the following proposed changes, our goal is to allow our on-campus organizations and clubs at Fawkes University to host events and speakers while remaining viewpoint neutral. Our goal is to also keep our students, employees, campus, and guests safe while expressing their freedom of speech.

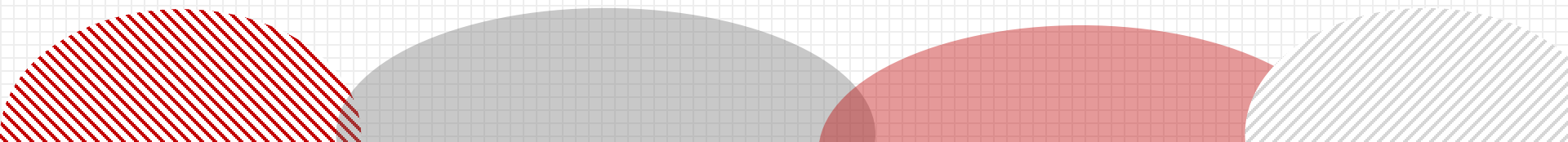
# PROPOSED CHANGES- OUTDOOR EVENTS

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- Develop an online form to reserve space. Once submitted the form would be forwarded via workflow to the appropriate approvers and notify involved personnel. This form must be submitted 10 business days prior to the event.
- Require the presence of no less than three University Police if more than 200 people are scheduled to attend the event.
- Non-university organizations & speakers are responsible for paying for university police at the university's discretion .
- Non-university organizations & speakers are not required to have an on-campus organization host for an outdoor event.

# PROPOSED CHANGES- OUTDOOR EVENTS

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- Non-university organizations must provide a certificate of liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$1 million per occurrence with their application.
  - If property damage occurs, the on-campus or non-university organization will be responsible for refunding the University for damages.
  - Failure to abide by Fawkes University policy can result in on-campus or non-university organization being prohibited from requesting events on campus grounds.
  - Outdoor events can only take place in reservable areas.
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# ONLINE OUTDOOR EVENT APPLICATION

## Fawkes University Outdoor Event Request

Please complete this outdoor event request to host an event/program on campus. This form must be submitted 10 days prior to your event. An email confirmation will be sent to your direct contact when your event/program is approved.

### Location Requesting

A. Dumbledore Student Union ▾

### Name and Position of Organization Contact

### Organization Contact Phone Number

### Event Name

### Date of Event

### Start Time of Event

10:00am

3:00pm



100%

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- Require the presence of no less than three University Police if more than 200 people are scheduled to attend the event.
- Non-university organizations & speakers are responsible for the cost of the university police at the university's discretion .

## ON-CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

Must be present at event when hosting a non-university organization and/or speaker.

Take into consideration weather condition, and supply certain accommodations if needed. For example, water to be provided on a hot day.

Will be responsible for refunding the appropriate office if property damage occurs. Failure to abide by Fawkes University's policy and Student Code of Conduct can result in campus organizations hosting privileges revoked at the discretion of the university.

# PROPOSED CHANGES- INDOOR EVENTS

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## Non-University Organizations and Speakers

- Non-university organizations, speakers, and events must be sponsored by a registered on campus organization.
- Non-university organizations must provide a certificate of liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$1 million per occurrence with their application.
- If a guest speaker or guest organization is involved in physical altercations or responsible for more than \$2,500 worth of damage the review committee has the right to deny them access to campus.
- Non-university organizations and speakers must agree to uphold and abide by the Fawkes University's policies and Student Code of Conduct.

# ONLINE INDOOR EVENT APPLICATION

## Fawkes University Indoor Event Request

Please complete this indoor event request to host an event/program in a building on campus. This form must be submitted 10 days prior to your event. An email confirmation will be sent to your direct contact when your event/program is approved.

### Location Requesting

Sybill Trelawney Astronomy Center ▾

### Name and Position of Organization Contact

### Organization Contact Phone Number

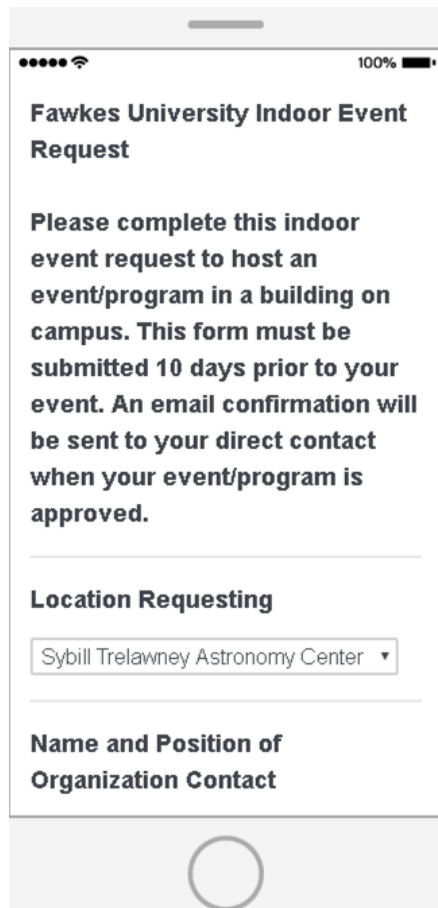
### Event Name

### Date of Event

### Start Time of Event

10:00am

3:00pm



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