

Team Members

The University of Texas at El Paso

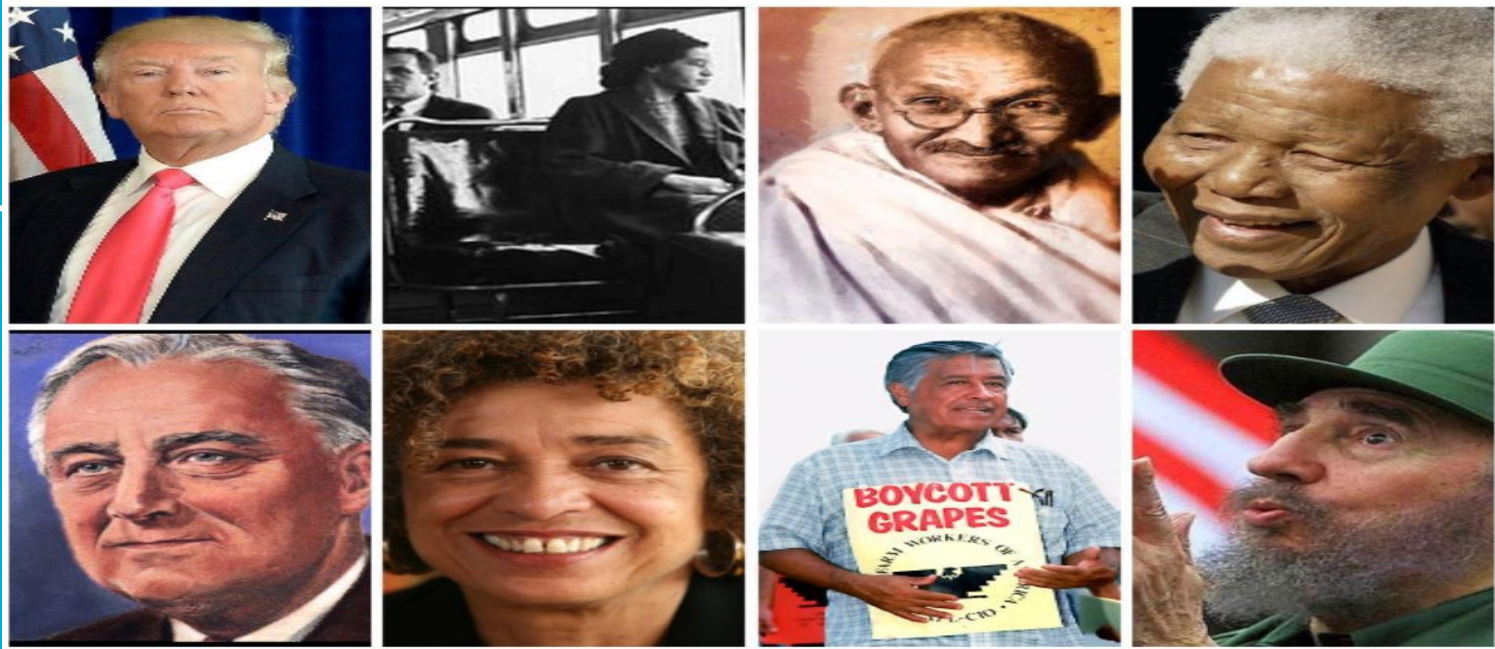
Higher Education Administration Graduate Students

Claudia Cardoza- Team Leader

Emily Martinez

Ronald Saks

Freedom of Speech and Diversity

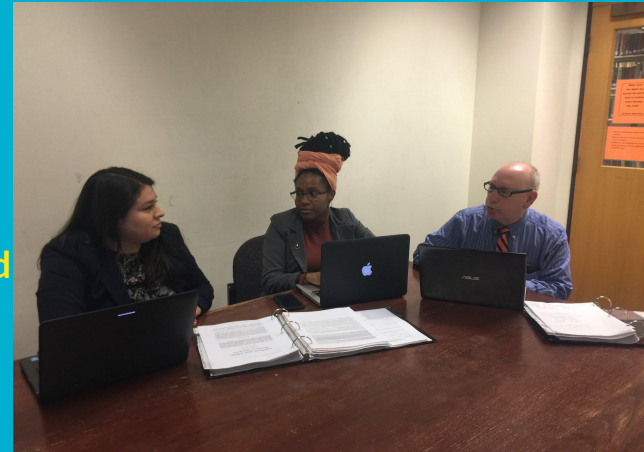




Free Spirit University of the Wild West

COMMITTEE FOR SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT SAFETY

Pictured left to right:
Lavander Black, Director of Student Conduct and
Conflict Resolution
Lilly Quirell, Director of Student Life
Oliver Finnigan, Chief of Campus Police



Current Guidelines

1. Event requests must be submitted by student organizations anytime they have an event, (general meetings, recruitment events, fundraisers, guest speakers, etc.)
2. Requests should be submitted at least one week prior to event, and must include, date of the event and speaker's information.
3. Event will be scheduled by department to any available venue on campus.
4. All requests will be accepted if submitted one week prior to the event.
5. Original and copy of request should be submitted within a timely manner.

Issues with Current Guidelines

- ❖ There is no clear procedure of how to submit an event request.
- ❖ There are no clear specifications of the procedures that will be taken the day of the event.
- ❖ A limited amount of time for verification can lead into an unorganized event and possibly not accommodating the speaker and audience to a proper venue.

Issues with Current Guidelines

- ❖ The lack of specifications could lead into a liability for the institution.
 - Protesters should be provided with a designated area in order to allow them their right to freedom of speech. Overseeing this issue may result in protesters entering the venue and causing an altercation.

Freedom of Speech

*The right to express any opinions
without censorship or restraint.*

Our Guiding Principles

The Free Spirit University of the Wild West is committed to **Free Speech** and **Safe Spaces**. Student organizations are allowed to invite any speakers to campus. In this place of higher learning, we are committed to giving others the opportunity to listen and **learn** about others who may not hold their same beliefs. We are also committed to the safety of our students, faculty and staff. Therefore we enforce regulations to ensure safety at every speaking engagement.

New and Improved Guidelines

To ensure the **safety** of event goers the following measures will be taken:

Event Requests

- 1) Must be submitted online through the Office of Student Life website by student organizations anytime they have an event, these events include (general meetings, social events, recruitment events, fundraisers, and guest speakers.)
- 2) Will ask to specify the type of event from a drop down menu (general meeting, recruitment event, social event, fundraiser, or guest speaker), date, and time.

New and Improved Guidelines

3) Must be submitted **at least 3 weeks prior** to the event taking place.

4) Student organizations cannot advertise the event until it has been approved.

If the student organization chooses 'guest speaker' they will automatically be taken to a page with the Speaker Clearance Form.



Speaker Clearance Form

Complete and submit this form to give notice to the Office of Student Life that you will be inviting a speaker to campus.

Name of Requestor

Voldemort, Lord

Phone Number

 - -

Email

Student Organization

Date of event

Time of event

Venue

Name of the Speaker

Event Description

Expected Attendance Estimate *

*For every speaking engagement regardless of attendance, The University requires that campus police be briefed on the event. Campus Police will be on standby close to the venue before and for the duration of the event. Once your event request is approved please contact Campus Police.

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Speaker Clearance Form

Once submitted, this event request with the Speaker Clearance Form will be reviewed by the Office of Student Life. (It will be **APPROVED** if submitted within specified time frame, or **DENIED** and given advice on how to proceed)

Advertising

- ❖ If the event is deemed to be sensitive in nature during the review of the event request, the reviewer will advise the student organization to include an **advertising disclaimer** in all their promotional material that states “Due to the nature of this event, children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult.”
- ❖ The student organization can choose to charge a fee for the event or make it free and open to the public.

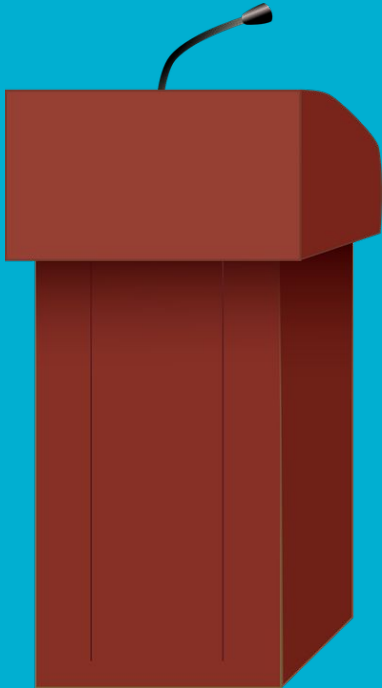
New and Improved guidelines

Day of the Event:

- ❖ The student organization president or another designated member of the executive board must accompany the guest speaker at all times.
- ❖ Student organization must be prepared to provide an adequate Q&A format if applicable.

EX: Microphone stands in aisles, or questions on index cards

New and Improved guidelines



- ❖ The following must be stated after welcoming the audience, “This is a safe space, please be respectful of others (encourage audience participation and explain Q&A format if applicable) and any disruptors will be escorted out.”

IF SOMEONE POSES A THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF THE ATTENDEES, THE UNIVERSITY (CAMPUS POLICE) HAS THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE THE EVENT.

New and Improved Guidelines

After the Event:

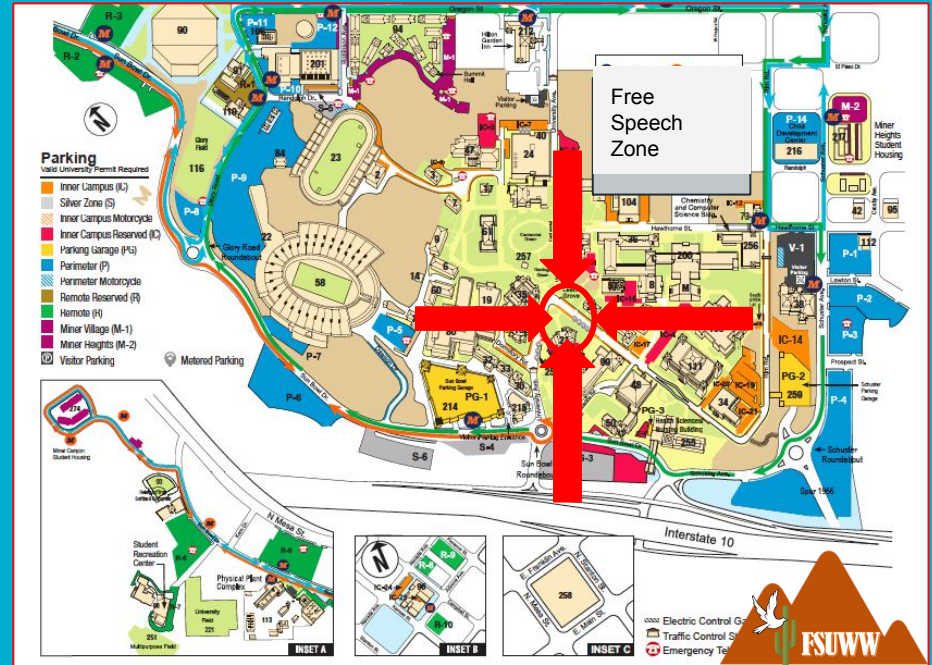
In the event that the crowd gets out of hand and the speaking engagement is cancelled (ie, disorderly conduct, hostile environment, or compromised safety), then a meeting will be called to debrief and come up with ideas to fix the issue.



New and improved guidelines

- ❖ Any students who wish to protest the guest speaker, are allowed to do so in the designated **free speech zone** next to the University Union Building.
- ❖ Any disturbances at the venue of the event will not be tolerated.

Free Spirit University of the Wild West



Conclusion

- ❖ By creating new guidelines we addressed the probable issues and probable liabilities that could have arisen from the existing guidelines.
- ❖ The Free Spirit University of the Wild West is committed to creating a learning environment that is inclusive and supportive, as well as protective to all of our students.



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Sources

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