

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: A
DATE: October 20, 2017

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO STUDENT ORGANIZATION AND FREE SPEECH SPEAKER POLICY

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents of Eastern Michigan University approve the attached amendments to Board Policy 8.4.3, *Student Organization and Free Speech Speaker Policy*, effective October 20, 2017.

STAFF SUMMARY

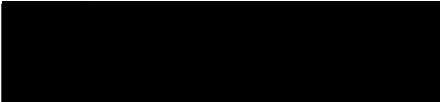
The University's commitment to free speech and expression is unwavering. Protection of First Amendment rights is essential to Eastern Michigan University's educational mission. The University will enable faculty, staff, student organizations and other groups to host a variety of events on campus in the spirit of the free exchange of ideas and to supplement and enrich students' educational experience. The form in which this expression takes place is rapidly evolving and the University must therefore have the flexibility to adopt policies and procedures supporting these events which are adaptable to current conditions. The recommended amendment to Board Policy 8.4.3 authorizes the University to promulgate policies and to publish them to the entire campus community. The current policies can be found on the [On Campus Events and Demonstrations Page](#).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.



University Executive Officer
Gloria A. Hage
General Counsel

10.20.2017

Date

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Left: 0.3", Right: 0.17", Top: 0.17", Bottom: 0.17"

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: 12 pt, (Intl) Times New Roman

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

8. Student Programs and Requirements

8.4. Student Activities

8.4.3. Student Organization Free Speech and Speaker Policy

Printable

version

Effective

Date: 4-

19-1972

Revision Date: 12-2-2003

UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENT

Free speech is essential to Eastern Michigan University's educational mission. The University will enable faculty, staff, student organizations and other groups to host a variety of events on campus in the spirit of the free exchange of ideas and thereby to

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Indent Left: 0.56"

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

supplement and enrich students' educational experience. Views expressed should be stated openly in order to allow for critical evaluation.

Toward that end, the University makes certain event facilities and spaces available to faculty, staff, student organizations and to other non-University users.

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Indent Left: 0.5", Hanging: 0.06"

The goal is for all University events to be orderly and peaceful so as many persons as possible can participate in and benefit from an open exchange of ideas. Because events can sometimes raise security concerns, the University will strive to ensure safety while protecting the First Amendment rights of those who wish to participate in on campus events.

Formatted: Indent Left: 0.56"

Accordingly, the University will promulgate reasonable rules and regulations surrounding the use of its campus facilities with the dual goals of protecting the First Amendment Rights of members of its community and safety and security of persons paramount.

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

Formatted: Indent Left: 0.63"

It is the policy of Eastern Michigan University to encourage recognized student organizations to invite speakers to campus to address public meetings in the spirit of the free exchange of ideas and to promote the timely discussion of a wide variety of issues. This policy assumes that the views expressed should be stated openly in order to allow for critical evaluation.

Recognized student organizations are encouraged to invite speakers to the campus to address public meetings, subject to the following provisions:

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

- The speaker(s) must not urge the audience to take action which is prohibited by the rules of the University or which is illegal under federal, state or local law. Advocating or urging the modification of the government of the United States or the State of Michigan, by violence or sabotage, is specifically prohibited. It is the responsibility of the student organization to inform speakers of these prohibitions.
- Any acts that are disruptive to the normal operations of the University including classes and University business or infringe upon the rights of others will not be tolerated.

- ~~Sponsorship must be by a recognized student organization.~~

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

~~Violations of this policy by recognized student organizations may result in termination of recognition status by decision of the President of the University, upon recommendation of the Vice President for Student Affairs.~~

UNIVERSITY PRACTICE

~~The University policies and procedures governing Free Speech and Expression on Campus can be found in the On Campus Events and Resource Page.~~

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

~~University procedures are established which govern the reservation of space for student organization events, in accordance with this policy. University procedures are also established which govern the sanctions for violation of this policy.~~

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

~~For the purposes of preserving a record of all such public meetings and in order to coordinate them with other events taking place on the university property, the sponsoring recognized student organization must make all arrangements for reservation of space, including outside space, through the Event Planning Office in McKenny Union and Campus Life. Approved rallies and parades must be scheduled with the Department of Public Safety.~~

RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The ~~Provost and Executive~~ Vice President for ~~Academic and~~ Student Affairs is responsible for the overall implementation, administration and interpretation of the policy. The Director of ~~Student Judicial Services~~ ~~the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards~~ is responsible for administering the Student Conduct Code as it applies to a violation of this policy.

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

The Departments of Public Safety and ~~Office of~~ Legal Affairs are responsible for helping to ensure compliance with local, state and federal laws.

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

SCOPE OF POLICY COVERAGE:

~~This policy applies to all members of the student organizations at Eastern Michigan University community.~~

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

Authority for Creation and Revision

Minutes of the Board of Regents, April 19, 1972, para. .1097M.

Minutes of the Board of Regents, December 2, 2003, para. .6194M.

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 12 pt

8. Student Programs and Requirements

8.4. Student Activities

8.4.3. Free Speech and Speaker Policy

Effective Date:

4-19-1972

Revision Date: 12-2-2003

UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENT

Free speech is essential to Eastern Michigan University's educational mission. The University will enable faculty, staff, student organizations and other groups to host a variety of events on campus in the spirit of the free exchange of ideas and thereby to supplement and enrich students' educational experience. Views expressed should be stated openly in order to allow for critical evaluation.

Toward that end, the University makes certain event facilities and spaces available to faculty, staff, and student organizations and to other non-University users.

The goal is for all University events to be orderly and peaceful so as many persons as possible can participate in and benefit from an open exchange of ideas. Because events can sometimes raise security concerns, the University will strive to ensure safety while protecting the First Amendment rights of those who wish to participate in on campus events.

Accordingly, the University will promulgate reasonable rules and regulations surrounding the use of its campus facilities with the dual goals of protecting the First Amendment Rights of members of its community and safety and security of persons paramount.

UNIVERSITY PRACTICE

The University policies and procedures governing Free Speech and Expression on Campus can be located on the [On Campus Events and Resource Page](#).

RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs is responsible for the overall implementation, administration and interpretation of the policy. The Director the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards is responsible for administering the Student Conduct Code as it applies to a violation of this policy.

The Departments of Public Safety and Office of Legal Affairs are responsible for helping to ensure compliance with local, state and federal laws.

SCOPE OF POLICY COVERAGE:

This policy applies to all members of the Eastern Michigan University community.

Authority for Creation and Revision

Minutes of the Board of Regents, April 19, 1972, para. .1097M.

Minutes of the Board of Regents, December 2, 2003, para. .6194M.