



Committee Meeting: Policy Committee	Date: June 9, 2017
Committee Chair: Kathleen Masiello	
New or Edited: New	

**POLICY NAME:** Freedom of Expression and Assembly Policy

**POLICY TYPE:** Board

**SUBMITTED BY:** Tracy Gast, Associate Vice President College Safety and Security

**ISSUE OR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

**Freedom of Expression at SUNY Erie Community College**

Freedom of thought and expression is essential to any institution of higher learning. Uncensored speech—which does not include a right to harass, injure, or silence others—is essential in any academic community, and will be defended. Members of the college community should understand that standards of civility, consideration and tolerance must shape our interactions with each other. Infringing on the expression of views—either by interfering with a speaker, defacing distributed notices or removing properly posted materials—will not be tolerated.

**Events and Speakers, Campus Demonstrations**

SUNY Erie reserves the right to control the time, place and manner of events that occur on any of the college’s three campuses or its affiliated properties. The college does not seek to censor the expression of ideas, but rather to maintain campus safety and order. Protestors may be assigned to particular places on campus by facility managers or College Safety officials in order to facilitate necessary college activities and operations.

Demonstrations by members of the campus community may occur on campus, but must not disrupt the regular operation of the college. The scheduling of speakers and events shall give 72 hours’ notice to both College Safety and pertinent college officials. (These officials can be determined by College Safety.) In addition, organizers must consult with college officials for a departmental- or employee-sponsored event, or with the Dean of Students for a student- or student-organization sponsored event regarding the logistical arrangements.

**Guidelines for Dissent and Protest**

Dissent and protest is not only a student right, but it is welcome at SUNY Erie. Disruption of college activities is not, and such behavior will not be tolerated. Students and members of the college community are free to support causes by orderly means that do not disrupt the regular operation of the college community.

Students and members of the college community are welcome to distribute literature where it will not interfere with classes or other college functions. Protesters may neither impede nor harass people wishing to attend an event, or to see or hear a speaker. Disruption, force or threat of force are not acceptable forms of protest at SUNY Erie, and may require intervention by both local law enforcement and College Safety. College officials may also choose to impose disciplinary sanctions on members of the SUNY Erie community who violate college guidelines.



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Individual members of the college community speak only for themselves in their public expressions and/or demonstrations. SUNY Erie's public information officer coordinates all institutional responses to the media regarding the college's positions.

For further information, please contact SUNY Erie's Office of College Safety at:

City Campus: (716) 851-1133

North Campus: (716) 851-1433

South Campus: (716) 851-1633

**NEW OR EDITED POLICY:** New

**DOES IT SUPERCEDE A POLICY/WHICH ONE:** No prior policy exists.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Academic Freedom IV-A-1

Student-Code of Conduct V-A-6

Policy Governing Conduct and Public Order on Campus, V-A-6a

**POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Policy Committee recommends the Board of Trustees accepts the Board policy under the Report of the Chair, Ad Hoc Committee Reports, and Policy Committee. This Policy supersedes all prior policies/procedures and practices related to Freedom of Expression and Assembly.

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Trustees Kathleen Masiello, Trustee Susan Swarts, Executive Vice President of Operations Michael Pietkiewicz, Director of Human Resources Tracey Cleveland, Vice President of Enrollment Management Erik D'Aquino, Assistant Vice President of College Safety and Security Tracy Gast, Assistant Director of Human Resources Maria Carroll, Erie County Attorney Leslie Ortiz-Fogg

**DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL:** June 29, 2017

**POLICY COMMITTEE TEAM FOLLOW-UP:** Following Trustee acceptance, this Board Policy it will be included in the Board of Trustees Policy Manual.

**INFORMATION/INPUT CONSIDERED DURING POLICY COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS:**

Policies from SUNY Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order Document Number 3653, the State University of New York at Buffalo 8 NYCRR Part 536 Maintenance of Public Order, Board of Trustees Rules-Maintenance



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of Public Order 8 NYCRR Part, 535, Monroe Community College, Niagara University. The Erie County Attorney Leslie Ortiz-Fogg Assistant County Attorney, reviewed and approved this policy. The Policy has been reviewed and discussed at the Policy Committee meetings of October 13, 2016, October 18, 2016, November 1, 2016, February 7, 2017, March 3, 2017, April 10, 2017 and June 9, 2017.