

Augusta University

Policy Library

Freedom of Expression

Policy Owner: Dean, Student Life

POLICY STATEMENT

Augusta University holds the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and the right to assemble peaceably as an essential cornerstone to the advancement of knowledge and the right of a free people. The University is committed to affording everyone the opportunity to engage in peaceful and orderly exercise of these rights in a manner that does not disrupt University operations and University-sponsored activities. This policy in no way prohibits individuals enrolled at or employed by Augusta University (“members of the University community”) from engaging in First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and freedom of expression, but rather only establishes as designated public forums certain outdoor areas of Augusta University’s campuses and sets forth requirements for reservation and use of the forums in the following limited circumstances: (1) members of the University community who plan an expressive event with 30 or more persons; and, (2) individuals or groups of persons who are not members of the University community who intend to speak on Augusta University’s campuses.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted as limiting the expression of members of the University community elsewhere on the campus provided the expressive activities or related student conduct do not violate any other applicable University policies or applicable laws. By placing reasonable limitations on time, place, and manner of expression, Augusta University does not take a position on the content or viewpoint of the expression, but rather provides for reasonable regulations of use of campus facilities so that a diversity of viewpoints may be expressed in an academic setting.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alumni | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faculty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduate Students | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Professional Students | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Students | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vendors/Contractors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visitors | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | | | |

DEFINITIONS

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PROCESS & PROCEDURES

Designated Public Forum Areas: To facilitate robust debate and the free exchange of ideas, the University has designated visible areas on campus as “Public Forum Areas.” Designated Public Forum Areas are generally available for reservation, except during scheduled University

Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management Use Only

Policy No.: 736

Policy Sponsor: Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs

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holidays, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12 midnight, Sunday through Saturday and include:

- a) Teardrop in the Grove area on the Summerville campus,
- b) South Side of the Jaguar Student Activity Center (JSAC), and
- c) East Side of the Student Center on the Health Sciences campus.

The Public Forum Areas are generally available, and may be used by any person including non-students and other campus guests, as long as the areas have not been previously reserved or scheduled for a particular function and the participants do not violate other University policies or applicable law. However, members of the University community who anticipate drawing a crowd of at least 30 individuals, and non-campus guests must reserve the Public Forum Areas prior to use of the space. If an individual or group plans to use the space, they should contact the University as soon as possible to minimize scheduling conflicts, accommodate all interested users, provide for campus safety, and ensure that the academic and other operations of the University are not disrupted.

Individuals interested in reserving the designated public forum areas should contact the Office of the Dean of Student Life. Reservations of the Public Forum Areas will be granted by the University unless the reservation request implicates one of the following situations: (1) the reservation request contains a material falsehood or misrepresentation; (2) the designated public forum areas have already been reserved; (3) the use or activity planned by the applicant would conflict with or disturb previously planned programs organized and conducted by the University or would present a danger to the health or safety of any individual; or, (4) the use or activity intended by the applicant is prohibited by law, Augusta University policy, or Board of Regents policy. University officials will respond to all reservation requests within two University business days. Any denial of a reservation request may be appealed to the Office of the Vice President for Enrollment Student Affairs who will respond to the appeal within two University business days.

If an individual or small group of individuals within the University community, while engaging in spontaneous expression, attracts a group of 30 or more persons, then a representative from the group should provide the University with as much notice as circumstances reasonably permit. The University reserves the right to direct a group of 30 or more persons to one of the Public Forum Areas or another available area of campus in order to ensure the safety of campus members, to provide for proper crowd control, and to limit disruption of the academic and other operations of the University. When relocating expression, the University official must not consider or impose restrictions based on the content or viewpoint of the expression. This provision does not apply to classroom instruction or University-sponsored events.

To find a listing of scheduled University holidays please visit the following website:
<http://www.augusta.edu/hr/campusscheduledholidays.php>

Written Materials: Members of the University community may distribute non-commercial written materials on a person-to-person basis in open outdoor areas of the campus. An individual who is not a member of the University community may only distribute written

materials within the Public Forum Areas and only during the time in which the individual has reserved the Public Forum Area.

Designated building coordinators, or other University officials may designate areas in classrooms and or in or around University buildings for students or student organizations who wish to post handbills, posters, flyers, banners, signs, and other similar items on campus. However, the University prohibits the posting or display of these items by students or student organizations outside of these designated areas, including on the exterior of any University building, telephone/utility pole, tree, sidewalk, window, trash can, or any other exterior surface located on the campus, including vehicles. For information about where material may be posted, please call the Office of the Dean of Student Life at 706-737-1411.

Requests to post fliers within on-campus housing must be submitted to the Department of Housing and Residence Life. Requesters should provide an appropriate number of flyers to be posted on bulletin boards within the residence halls. Housing staff are responsible for posting the flyers and removing them after the event or noted expiration date. Solicitation or advertising for non-university sponsored functions is not allowed.

General Provisions: In addition to the requirements set forth above, all individuals expressing themselves on Augusta University's campus must comply with the following provisions:

- No interference with the free flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic, including the ingress and egress to buildings on campus, is permitted.
- No disruption of the orderly conduct of classroom instruction or other University activities is permitted. If a demonstration or other expressive behavior by any individual or group, regardless of the size of the group, disrupts any University-sponsored event, including class or clinic, or poses a threat to the health or safety of any individual, the University reserves the right to direct the individual or group to one of the Designated Public Forums or to another suitable location where the individual or group may continue the demonstration, if such an area exists on campus, or to end the event.
- Buildings, grounds, University property, and property belonging to others may not be defaced, damaged, or destroyed.
- Sidewalk chalk is permitted; however, the use of chalk may be used only on concrete sidewalks where the chalking can be washed away easily by rain, and at least 10 feet from the entrance to any University building.
- Persons expressing themselves on Augusta University's campus must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, Board of Regents' policies, and Augusta University policies, rules, and regulations.

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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RELATED POLICIES

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APPROVED BY:

President, Augusta University and CEO, AU Health System Date: 10/16/2017

