

## **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON PUBLIC SPEECH, ASSEMBLY AND DEMONSTRATIONS**

Southeastern Louisiana University recognizes that freedom of speech and assembly are basic and essential to both intellectual and social development. These freedoms, guaranteed by the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, shall be enjoyed by the university community at Southeastern. Free discussion of ideas of either controversial or non-controversial nature shall not be curtailed.

These freedoms, however, are not absolute. Colleges and universities have well-established rights to regulate time, place, and manner so that activities do not intrude upon or interfere with the academic programs and administrative processes of the university. The university may designate one or more areas on campus where individuals may assemble and engage in speech activities.

All speech and assembly activities must be conducted in accordance with university regulations.

### **TIME**

In accordance with US Federal Court decisions, the University has the right to regulate the time of speech or assembly activities. A two (2) hour time period will be provided to individual(s) and/or organizations for these purposes at Southeastern. Speech/assembly activities will be limited to one two hour time limit per seven-day period, commencing the Monday of each week.

### **PLACE**

The university has designated the following sites for public discussion and/or peaceful public assembly or demonstration: (1) the steps in front of the Student Union Annex and the grassy area immediately in front of the steps and bounded by the sidewalk; (2) the grassy area in front of the Claude B. Pennington, Jr. Student Activity Center; (3) Presidential Plaza area north of the Student Union, as areas where public speech and assemblies may be conducted by students without prior administrative approval. Individual(s) or organizations wishing to use such areas will be required to register the public speech or assembly a minimum of seven (7) days in advance through the office of Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs.

Public assembly, discussion or demonstration shall not disturb or interfere with any program, event, or activity approved prior to the public assembly, discussion or demonstration; shall not unreasonably disturb or interfere with normal operations and activities of the university; and will not be scheduled during other major events already scheduled on campus. Use of the area shall not include activities which could constitute non-permissible solicitation or which would be an infraction of the university sign policy in regards to indiscriminately handing out materials to passers-by.

## **MANNER**

1. Any individual(s) or organization may publicly assemble or demonstrate in a peaceful manner after attaining the permission of the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs or his or her designee.
  
1. An application to assemble publicly or demonstrate must be made seven (7) days in advance on a form provided by the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and shall contain:
  - (a) the applicant's name, address, phone number, social security number and date of birth;
  - (b) the proposed location, date and time for the assembly or demonstration;
  - (c) the anticipated number of participants; including a list of authorized representatives of the organization who will be present along with their addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth, social security number and their purpose for being there, i.e. speaking, helping with set-up, etc. (ID cards will be provided to these individuals);
  - (d) the purpose of the assembly or demonstration;
  - (e) the signature of the applicant or, if an organization, its authorized representative.
  
3. The Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs shall approve an application properly made under section 2 unless there are reasonable grounds to believe that:
  - (a) the applicant is under a disciplinary penalty prohibiting publicly assembling or demonstrating;
  - (b) the proposed location is unavailable or inappropriate at the time requested;
  - (c) the proposed date and time are unreasonable;
  - (d) the assembly or demonstration would unreasonably obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic;
  - (e) the speech will constitute a clear and present danger to the institution's orderly operation, to students, faculty or staff, or property, through advocacy of immediate action.
  
4. The manner approved for the public assembly or demonstration will include but is not limited to the following conditions.
  - (a) Individual(s) or organizations will be restricted to the place described in the registration and are not allowed to leave that area to conduct their assembly.
  - (b) No harmful acts, destruction or defacement of property, or physical assaults of persons will be allowed. This includes threats and/or

intimidation aimed at particular individuals and creating in them a realistic fear for their personal safety or the security of their property.

- (c) No use of amplification devices is allowed.
- (d) The speech may not be projected onto private areas, such as resident hall rooms or classrooms and thereby creating captive audiences who cannot guard their privacy by avoiding the speech.

## **FEES**

The freedom of ideas is limited only by certain practical constraints, necessitated by such considerations as securing the safety of person and property and the need to prevent disruption of the learning environment. The use of Southeastern Louisiana University Administration staff; University Police, city of Hammond Police, Tangipahoa Sheriffs Deputies, Louisiana State Police, or a private security company in connection with the event is at the sole discretion of the University in determining both the need for, and the strength of the security detail. The sponsoring individual(s) or organization is responsible for the cost of this security beyond that normally provided by the University, specifically those administrators/officers who must be assigned directly to the event and/or away from their normal operational duties.

A breakdown on these fees will be provided to the individual(s) or organization prior to the event's approval. These fees must be paid in advance to Southeastern's Controller's Office and a receipt must be presented to the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs prior to the day of the event.

## **SANCTIONS**

Individuals and/or organizations who fail to follow these policies and procedures may be subject to penalties, which may include banishment from campus, payment of damages, fines, etc. Violators will be referred to Judicial Affairs for adjudication.

## **NON-ENDORSEMENT/NON-GUARANTEE**

All views expressed by any individual or organization are those of the speaker and not, necessarily, of Southeastern Louisiana University. References made to any products and/or services are not guaranteed by the University.

## **VIDEO/AUDIO TAPING**

Southeastern reserves the right to video and/or audio tape any public speech, assembly, or demonstration held on its campus or at any of its satellite sites.