Demonstration Guidelines for the DePaul Community

DePaul's Mission Statement compassionately upholds the dignity of all members of its diverse, multi-faith, and inclusive community. Consistent with these values, the DePaul University Guiding Principles on Speech and Expression affirms the right of members of the DePaul community to engage in speech and expression consistent with the values of academic freedom, free speech, open inquiry, and civil discourse.

Engaging in civil discourse may involve organizing a demonstration, which includes events at which an individual or group of individuals gather to raise awareness about, or express a viewpoint on, an issue or cause. Other examples include, but are not limited to, assemblies, rallies, marches, picketing, protests, counter-protests, or sit-ins.

Members of the University community may engage in speech and expression in accordance with applicable university policies. This includes the *Demonstrations and Other Similar Events* policy for students as detailed in the *Code of Student Responsibility* and all other applicable university policies and procedures.

Issues of speech and expression on campus are often thought-provoking, challenging and complicated. At times, student organizations and other groups may host speakers or other events on or off campus that other members of the community find offensive or derogatory. Below are suggestions for expressing your message when you disagree with a speaker or event:

- Share your concern with the event sponsor (e.g., the student organization, academic department, or other group).
- Write guest editorials or send letters to media outlets, such as The DePaulia.
- Contact your representatives in student government, staff council or faculty council.
- Form a coalition of like-minded others and work with your representing organizations to affect change within the university community.
- Start a petition.
- Organize a peaceful protest outside of the event, as long as it respects the right of individuals to express their views and aligns with university policies and guidelines.
- Attend the program and engage in a dialogue with the speaker about the controversial ideas.
- Organize a teach-in with faculty members.
- Host another event or speaker to present an alternative point of view.
- Choose not to attend the event and find other ways to express your viewpoints.
- Lend support, reassurance, and empathy to students and other campus community members who may be hurt by offensive messages.

Events, including demonstrations, that require a space reservation must be registered ahead of time. This includes events held inside campus facilities or outside on campus

grounds. Spaces requiring reservations on campus generally include classrooms, meeting rooms, all spaces inside the Student Centers, the Quad (Including St. Vincent's Circle), the Arts and Letters Patio, both Student Center entryway plazas, the DePaul Center Plaza in the Loop, etc. Information on how to reserve space on all campuses can be found below in Related Resources.

Student organizations should inform their advisors as well as the Office of Student Involvement of demonstrations occurring on public property adjacent to DePaul's campuses. Staff from OSI can be instrumental in helping student organizations ensure a successful event congruent with the guidelines set forward in this document and other university policies.

All events:

- Must be orderly and peaceful.
- May not impede passage in or out of any facility or university-owned and -maintained roadway or pathway.
- May not create excessive noise (the use of devices to amplify sound inside or outside of university facilities is prohibited without prior approval).
- May not obstruct the view of those assembled with use of signs, placards, banners, etc.
- May not involve activity that is violent or otherwise threatens the safety of the demonstrators or other members of the community.
- May not interfere with the business or academic operations of the university.
- That take place on public property may be observed by and under the management of the Chicago Police Department.

Demonstrators who engage in conduct that is harassing, discriminatory, violent, threatening, or that otherwise violates university policy may be referred to the appropriate process for further review (i.e. Student Conduct Process, Progressive Discipline Process, Faculty Handbook Disciplinary Process, etc.). Such acts would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and as reported to university officials.

Examples of conduct that may violate university policy include, but are not limited to:

- Interfering with others' ability to see, hear, or participate in an event.
- Blocking, obstructing or impeding passage or access to an event or blocking access to university facilities.
- Obstructing the view of the event including standing or holding signs that block the view of an event.
- Substantially interfering with a speaker's presentation through sustained, repeated, loud, amplified, or unusual noise.
- Threatening force or violence.
- Defacing posters or other advertising for an event.

- Shutting down an event or attempting to shut down an event. For example, grabbing the microphone from a speaker, turning off the lights or power to the venue, causing an environmental danger by releasing something into the air such as pepper spray, mace, or discharging fire extinguishers.

The role of DePaul Public Safety and contracted security during a demonstration is to maximize the safety and security of community members as well as university property.

DePaul has an Event Response Team (ERT) which is comprised of staff from the DePaul community who may be available at campus demonstrations to help students navigate policies and guidelines, as needed.

When working within these guidelines, other DePaul policies and codes of conduct, or applicable law, DePaul Public Safety and other university officials may request community members to identify themselves, instruct community members to remove placards, banners, or signs, or direct individuals to leave a University location.

Related Resources

The Code of Student Responsibility: https://catalog.depaul.edu/student-handbooks/code-student-responsibility/judicial-review-process/

Student Center Policies and Procedures: https://offices.depaul.edu/student-centers/Documents/STUDENT%20CENTERS%20POLICY%20AND%20PROCEDURE%20MANUAL%2004-2022.pdf

Faculty Handbook: https://offices.depaul.edu/secretary/policies-procedures/policies/Documents/Faculty%20Handbook.pdf

Human Resources Progressive Discipline Process: https://offices.depaul.edu/student-employment/manager-resources/workplace-issues/Pages/progressive-discipline.aspx

Student Organization Handbook: go.depaul.edu/studentorghandbook

Reserving academic space: https://offices.depaul.edu/academic-affairs/leadership-resources/space/Pages/lincoln-park.aspx

Reserving Student Centers and outdoor space: https://offices.depaul.edu/student-centers/event-management/Pages/room-request-ems.aspx