



POLICY 7350

DEMONSTRATIONS ON COLLEGE PROPERTY

Policy Category: Facilities

Area of Administrative Responsibility: Facilities Management

Board of Trustees Approval Date:

Effective Date:

Amendment History: N/A

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PURPOSE

The College recognizes the constitutional right of freedom of speech and expression, and supports the rights of students, employees and other members of the College community to disagree with national, state, local and administrative and/or faculty policies and positions, including by organizing or participating in picketing, protests or demonstrations. In order to maintain an educational environment that encourages free speech and debate, while maintaining order and decorum on the College Campus, the College shall direct and regulate the time, place and manner of expressive activity so that such expression does not materially disrupt College operations, involve substantial disorder on the Campus or violate the rights of others.

SCOPE

This policy applies and is binding on all College students, employees, volunteers, and other members of the College community.

POLICY

Individuals or groups affiliated with the College wishing to exercise their First Amendment rights by organizing rallies, protests or demonstrations on College property must follow the protocols described in this Policy.

Students, faculty and staff of the College will be permitted to engage in lawful demonstrations and expressions of free speech on the College Campus at reasonable times, under reasonable circumstances, and at a location specifically designated by the College for such purposes. All areas so designated at the College are a limited public forum, and as such the College has adopted reasonable limitations on expressive activities conducted therein, such as restricting the activities

only to members of the College community, and instituting viewpoint-neutral and reasonable requirements which must be met before an expressive activity may take place.

The College will not authorize, permit or condone demonstrations by any individuals or groups on College property which interfere with educational programs, disrupt public order, threatens the safety of members of the College community, interferes with the College traffic, and/or results in a threat to public health.

A. Approved Location(s) for Protests and/or Demonstrations on Campus:

The following location on the Campus has been designated as a demonstration site:

Plaza area within boundaries designated by the Director of Public Safety depending upon the size of the group participating in the demonstration.

Additional locations may be designated by the Department of Public Safety or the Dean of Students Office if deemed more suitable for a particular expressive activity or event.

B. Requests to Organize a Protest and/or Demonstration on Campus:

Individuals who are planning a protest or a demonstration on Campus must submit a written request concerning the Event at least one (1) week prior to the date of the proposed Event. It is strongly encouraged that requests are submitted well in advance of the Event to give the College sufficient time to review the request, make a determination concerning the Event, and make necessary arrangements for public safety in the event the request is approved. Students and student groups must direct the request to the Dean of Students Office. Employees and other members of the College community must direct the request to the Department of Public Safety. The request must include the following information:

1. Contact information for the Event Organizer(s)
2. Requested Date and Time of the Event
3. The number of people invited or expected to attend the Event
4. Issue at hand or Purpose of the Demonstration or Protest
5. Names of Invited Speakers, if any
6. List of any External (non-College) Organization(s) which will be involved in the Event
7. Copy of Advertisement & Press Release, if any, concerning the Event

- C.** The appropriate College official (i.e., Dean of Students Office or the Department of Public Safety) will make a determination as to whether the proposed Event will be approved, and any and all applicable parameters, in consultation, as needed, with appropriate College departments. If approved, all College policies and procedures as well as the Student Code of Conduct must be observed at all times during the demonstration or protest, as well as Federal, State and local laws, rules, and regulations. In addition, College policies and procedures, as well as Federal, State and local laws, rules, regulations, and guidelines, on health and safety must be followed. The Event Organizer shall be responsible for communicating the parameters of the Event to all participants prior to the Event, and to take reasonable measures to insure the safety of participants. The Event Organizer will act

as the primary liaison with the College's Department of Public Safety and/or the Dean of Students Office before and during the Event.

- D.** If the approved Event becomes disruptive or obstructive to College operations, Public Safety will inform the demonstrators that their actions are disruptive to the operations of the Campus and that the disruptive activities in question must cease and desist. If such instructions are not heeded, the permission for the demonstration or protest will be revoked, and all attendees will be asked to leave the Campus immediately. If the Event attendees disregard instructions to disperse and leave the Campus, Nassau County Police Department will be summoned for assistance and to clear the area.
- E.** Any demonstration or protest wherein physical violence, unauthorized entry into College buildings, and/or destruction of property takes place will be immediately dispersed and Nassau County Police Department will be summoned to the scene to respond appropriately.
- F.** In the event any member of the College community notices or learns of an unsanctioned protest or demonstration on Campus (i.e., a group gathering which is in progress without any Public Safety presence, and which may be disruptive or obstructive to College operations), they are encouraged to notify Public Safety immediately. Such notification will enable Public Safety Department to take such measures as are necessary to ensure the safety of all persons on College property and to ensure compliance with this Policy.
- G.** Demonstrations or protests that have not been approved by the College through the process outlined in this Policy are not permitted and may be dispersed immediately.

ENFORCEMENT

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action. Students violating this Policy shall be subject to discipline through the Student Conduct Process. Employees who are part of a bargaining unit will be subject to disciplinary action brought under their respective collective bargaining agreement. Employees who are not members of a bargaining unit will be subject to discipline by their supervisor.