AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON, D.C.

University Policy: Freedom of Expression Guidelines

Policy Category: Student Policies; Academic/Research Policies; Employment, Benefits, and Workplace Policies

Subject: Freedom of expression and dissent

Office Responsible for Review of this Policy: Office of Campus Life; Office of the Provost; Office of Finance and Treasurer

Procedures: Academic Freedom at American University found in Faculty Manual

Related University Policies: Discrimination and Discriminatory Harassment Policy

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I. SCOPE

This policy establishes University protections for freedom of expression for all members of the University community.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

American University defends the right of free speech and the freedom of the individual to make one's own disclosures, while at the same time recognizing that such freedom exists in the context of the law and in responsibility for one's actions.

III. POLICY

Freedom of expression and dissent is protected by University policy for all members of the University community. The exercise of these rights must not deny the same rights to any other individual. The University therefore both fosters and protects the rights of individuals to express dissent. Protest or demonstration shall not be discouraged so long as neither force nor the threat of force is used, and so long as the orderly processes of the University are not deliberately obstructed. Membership in the American University community carries with it, as a necessary condition, the agreement to honor and abide by this policy and by the Student Conduct Code. Specifically, expressions of dissent should not:

A. deny or infringe upon the rights of other students, faculty, staff, or guests of the University community;

B. disrupt or interfere with educational or other activities of the University community;

C. create a volume of sound that prevents members of the University from conducting their normal activities;

D. obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic on campus;

E. obstruct or restrict the free movement of persons in any part of property owned or leased by the University;

F. deny the normal use of offices or other facilities to the students, faculty, staff or guests of the University;

G. endanger the safety of any person on the University campus;

H. result in the defacement or destruction of University property.

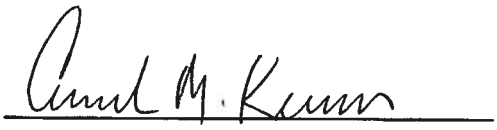
IV. EFFECTIVE DATE(S)

This Policy was effective October 26, 1982 and last reviewed in July 2010.

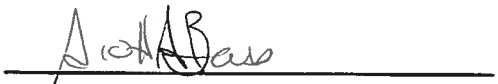
V. SIGNATURE, TITLE AND DATE OF APPROVAL

This policy needs to be signed by the appropriate officer (listed below) before it is considered approved.

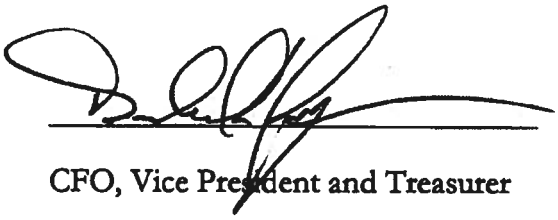
Approved:



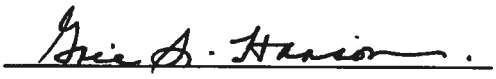
President



Provost



CFO, Vice President and Treasurer



Vice President of Campus Life

Date Approved: October 26, 1982 (passed by the University Senate and approved by the Office of the Provost)