

# FREE EXPRESSION POLICY

**POLICY NUMBER:** RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

**POLICY TYPE:** ADMINISTRATIVE

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL TITLE:** DEAN OF STUDENTS

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** DEAN OF STUDENTS' OFFICE

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 5/2/2007

**SUPERSEDES POLICY DATED:** 1/31/1990

## I. POLICY STATEMENT

Northern Kentucky University recognizes the essential place of free expression in a democratic society, as well as an educational community's need to cultivate responsible avenues and means for free expression. As an educational community, NKU adheres to the belief that the freedoms of speech, thought, conscience, inquiry, and assembly hold central positions among the principles defended by an institution of higher learning. The University therefore supports the right of peaceful expression by members of the campus community.

NKU will develop, in its classrooms and within the university community, a culture of enlightened use of expression and communication, developing in students, faculty, and staff a respect for fairness, accuracy, and fidelity in all forms of written and spoken discourse. The university encourages students, faculty, administration and staff to accept the role of well informed and articulate scholars and learners, and to defend the First Amendment rights of those with whom they disagree.

Through this policy, NKU affirms its role as a limited public forum within the campus community. The university will apply a reasonable person standard as the basis for interpreting the time, manner, and place for free expression.

### Content Neutral

The content of posters, flyers, handbills, and banners, as well as the intent or message of a temporary display will not be a determining factor in applications or reservations unless the content or nature of the proposed message(s) would be a violation of university policy or federal or state laws.

### I. Protests, Rallies and Demonstrations

In order to (1) facilitate the effective use and enjoyment of the campus facilities for the exercise of individual liberties and the fundamental educational mission of the university, and (2) to minimize conflict between the form of their exercise and the rights and liberties of others in the effective use of University facilities, the following regulations are established:

A. Individuals or groups who desire to use campus areas for protests, rallies or demonstrations are strongly encouraged to reserve a specific area(s) in advance to ensure the availability of space. Without a reservation, the University allows campus areas to be utilized on a first come, first served basis. Protests, rallies or demonstrations whose numbers exceed 50 individuals may represent a reasonable concern for safety, security or reasonable access to campus, and may be restricted in size and to specific locations. Reservation of specific areas is available through the Dean of Students office.

B. Planned or spontaneous protests, rallies or demonstrations may be conducted on campus provided such events are conducted in a lawful and orderly manner and do not:

1. Prohibit or materially interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
2. Materially interfere with the education of others, scheduled meetings, events, and ceremonies or with other educational processes of the University (i.e. noise volume).





