



## Clark University Protests and Demonstrations Policy

### I. Scope/Policy

The right to freedom of expression at Clark includes the right to acts of peaceful dissent, nonviolent protests, and orderly demonstrations including picketing and the distribution of leaflets. This document outlines the University policies that govern such expression, and aligns with the institutional Statement of Freedom of Expression and Community Values.

#### **Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions**

The University may impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions in a content neutral manner on the exercise of the right of free expression to preserve the safe and orderly operation of the campus. Freedom of expression must be exercised in a manner that:

1. Shall not interfere with or obstruct the free flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic;
2. Shall not prevent or disrupt the effective carrying out of the academic, educational, or essential operational functions of the University;
3. Shall not prevent or disrupt the effective carrying out of classes in session or other scheduled academic, educational, or co-curricular programs;
4. Shall not unduly impede a person's opportunity to freely and fully participate in the curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities of the University
5. Shall not promote an unlawful end, such as promoting violence to persons or property, harassment or discrimination, or intimidation; and
6. Must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

Protests, counter-protests, and demonstrations are generally permitted to last until or unless University officials determine that disruption (see *Disruption* section below, page 1) has occurred,ETQ(e)]2 q0.0-3(ts)b2 reW\*nB/F1 12 Tf1 0 0 /4er

disciplinary proceedings, or other activities. Disruptive actions include but are not limited to blocking or unduly disrupting the ingress or egress of traffic into campus buildings or on or abutting campus sidewalks and roads, or the unauthorized entry into private offices, work areas, teaching areas, libraries, or social facilities. It is also a violation to harass individuals walking past or observing a demonstration, or to deprive anyone who is exercising freedom of expression the opportunity to speak or be heard, to physically obstruct their movement, or to otherwise interfere with speech rights or academic freedom - either via physical or social media threats, or other unlawful conduct.

#### *Building Occupancy*

The total number of participants for indoor protests and demonstrations cannot exceed the posted occupancy for the space per the City of Worcester fire code. Additionally, building closures are expected to be adhered to by participants in a protest or demonstration. For questions regarding occupancy limits or building closure times, contact the Office of Community Standards.

#### *Signs and Banners*

Signs and banners will not be permitted in indoor spaces during a protest or demonstration, so as to not interfere with the reasonable viewing, participation, or safety of others. Those wishing to hold or display signs or banners in connection to an event may do so in designated spaces for the event. Signs and displays that are stationary in nature and abnormally large, such that they unduly blocks pathways,



All external speakers are expected to abide by all existing policies, procedures, regulations, and guidelines.

Clark University reserves the right to specify locations for public address. The University also reserves the right to deny a request by any external speaker if it is determined by University officials that the proposed public address would constitute an

and Communications and the General Counsel are ex-officio members of DPOT. The DPOT may work with other campus constituents on response needs as appropriate.

The DPOT will convene at least annually to review data from the prior year and will report out to the campus community.

#### **IV. Disclaimers and Restrictions**

1. The use of the University's facilities in no way implies an endorsement by the University of the views and opinions of speakers and event organizers.
2. An invitation to speak at Clark University does not include any license for unlawful activity or activity that endangers or imminently threatens to endanger the safety of any member of the community or any of the community's physical facilities. Nor does it license any activity that disrupts or obstructs the essential functions of the University or imminently threatens such disruption or obstruction.
3. The University preserves its right to speak and to act as it deems appropriate to educate members of the Clark community.
4. Failure to comply with a request by a University administrator, University Police officer, or other law enforcement officials may result either in expulsion from the event or other measures to assure safety. Disciplinary actions may also be warranted in such cases.
5. The protocol governing the use of campus space by external groups that rent or use space on campus for a non-Clark event are overseen by the Office of University Events and Ceremonies and the Office of Government and Community Affairs.

#### **V. Policy Application**

Members of the Clark University community found to be in violation of the above policy will be subject to proceedings through the appropriate University processes. Violations of the policy pertaining to undergraduate and graduate students will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students, and faculty and staff will be referred to the Office of the Provost and/or Human Resources.

<b>Related Information</b>
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