



STUDENT HANDBOOK 2014-15

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GUEST SPEAKERS

A significant implication of academic freedom is the appearance on certain occasions and under certain occasions stated below, of speakers whose opinions may support, challenge or contradict those positions to which some members of the University community or its Administration espouse and/or the stated policy of the University.

Notre Dame de Namur University welcomes such speakers for both educational and practical purposes. First, the beliefs expressed in its mission should be seen as reasoned convictions rather than prejudices. Secondly, the clash of debate is a most effective stimulus to inspire or clarify thought. Thirdly, a university in a democratic society cherishes its freedom of speech. Fourthly, public presentation of an opinion provides thinking men and women opportunity to measure its worth. Finally, “controversial” is often an epithet attached to an idea which is unpopular at a certain time and among certain people, but which, if allowed to mature in public debate, may contribute to the advancement of our understanding of the world. For these reasons, we believe that a university which cherishes its own clear principles need not fear controversy.

This statement has several purposes: to assure the right of free expression in the academic forum, to minimize conflicts between the exercise of that right and the rights of others in the use of University facilities; and to minimize the possible interference with the responsibilities of the University as an educational institution.

Off-campus groups or individuals may enter the campus for the purposes of distributing material, performing or presenting ideas in a public forum only if they are sponsored by an authorized on-campus organization which agrees to monitor their compliance with University policies. In order to ensure that these visitors contribute to the educational process established on the campus, the following procedures for guest speakers are established:

- Sponsorship: Recognized student organizations may invite non-University speakers to address meetings on-campus only with prior notification to the Dean of Students or designee. In order to establish sponsorship of an off-campus individual or organization, the campus organization must establish the reasonable satisfaction of the Dean of Students or designee that there is an interest in bringing the individual or organization to campus which is consistent with the educational objectives of the University.
- Reservation Procedures: Facilities reservation by an off-campus group must be completed with the Director of Advancement Events, Conference Services (Denise Winkelstein). The office will provide the necessary forms, procedures for use, guidelines for sound amplification equipment, etc. Student Life and Leadership must be consulted regarding date, time of day, etc. After this meeting, Student Life and Leadership will

notify the Dean of Students. Except in unusual circumstances, this notification must take place at least 14 calendar days before the event is to occur. A reasonable rental fee, determined by the Director of Advancement Events, Conferences Services, may be charged to off-campus groups using University facilities irrespective of sponsorship by an authorized campus organization.

- Fair and Orderly Presentation: Whenever the Dean of Students or designee considers it appropriate in furtherance of educational objectives, she/ he may require either or both of the following:
 - A. That the meeting be chaired by a person approved by the Dean of Students or designee;
 - B. That the speaker be subject to questions from the audience;
 - C. Other measures conducive to fair and reasoned expression and communication.

- Grounds for Refusing a Speaker: After the notice required under Reservation Procedures has been given, the Dean of Students or her designee may refuse to permit the speaker to appear on campus only if she determines, after appropriate inquiry and consultation the proposed speech will constitute a clear and present danger to the orderly operation or peaceful conduct of campus activities by the speaker's advocacy of action or likely violation of an important University policy, including but not limited to:

Willful damage, destruction or seizure of University buildings or other property; forcible disruption, impairment of, or interference with classes or other University activities; physical harm, coercion, intimidation, or other invasion of rights of the University students, faculty, staff, or guests; or other campus disorder of a violent or seriously disruptive nature.

- Other speakers: Student organizations and academic departments present activities throughout the year which respect the diversity of political, social and religious opinions of the student body.

All rules applicable to University organizations or individuals shall have equal effect on non-University organizations or individuals purporting to be properly on campus in accordance with this policy. In conclusion, NDNU does not officially endorse or identify itself with the opinions or statements of any speakers invited and permitted to appear on campus.