



RU Policy No. 3.15

Responsible Division: Student Affairs

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Revised Effective Date: 05/2024

Free Speech and Demonstration Policy

Policy Statement

The University reserves the right to modify or amend this Policy at any time, at its sole discretion. Any change to this Policy will become effective at the time designated above. This Policy does not constitute an express or implied contract between Roosevelt University and any past, present, or prospective student, employee (including administrator, faculty, or staff), contractor, or volunteer.

This Policy governs conduct on all of the University’s properties, including but not limited to the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University (“ATRU”). Unless otherwise stated, the term “Employee” as used in this Policy shall refer to all employees (including administrators, faculty, and staff), contractors, and volunteers.

Policy

Roosevelt University values and upholds the principles of academic freedom, free expression, and civil discourse. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the exercise of free speech and demonstration rights, ensuring the safety of all individuals and property involved in such activities.

Definitions

“Demonstrations and Public Protests” means actions by groups of people, including but not limited to demonstrations, marches, planned or spontaneous protests, and vigils, conducted on or adjacent to the campuses (Chicago and Schaumburg) of Roosevelt University.

“Registered Demonstrations” means demonstrations and public protest that have been pre-approved and registered with the Office of Student Affairs.

“Non-Registered or Spontaneous Demonstrations” means demonstrations and public protests that occur without prior registration.

Registered Demonstrations

Organizers of demonstrations and public protests are encouraged to register their events with the Office of Student Affairs at least three business days in advance. The Office of Student Affairs will develop reasonable and appropriate procedures for the registration of such events, including required notification of other university offices as appropriate (including Campus Safety, Office of the President, Facilities, and Office of the Provost), and shall develop standards for evaluating requests for waivers of the restrictions listed below.

These procedures, along with any required forms, will be made available to individuals seeking registration. They will also be made available upon request to any member of the university community. Following successful completion of the procedures, the Office of Student Affairs will verify the registration status of the event and notify organizers and affected university offices.

Restrictions

Demonstrations and public protests must **not**:

- a. Occur outside of university hours of operation
- b. Disrupt normal academic activities with excessive noise
- c. Disrupt scheduled campus events
- d. Threaten force or violence
- e. Block entrances or exits
- f. Obstruct vehicular pedestrian traffic
- g. Damage or deface university property
- h. Use open flame or affix items to permanent structures

Procedures for Handling Non-Compliant Demonstrations

1. The Dean of Students in consultation with Campus Safety and appropriate university officials, will assess whether a demonstration violates university policy.
2. If a violation is identified, participants will be informed of the violations and advised to comply with the policy. Continued non-compliance may result in further action up to and including disciplinary measures.

Entities Affected by this Policy

All Divisions of the University

Related Documents

All University Policies.

Revision and Implementation

The Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students shall have the authority to revise this Policy, subject to the approval of the President's Executive Council.