



# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL

## **Student Affairs**

**Approved By:** Richard R. Rush  
President

**Policy Number:** SA.07.011

**Effective Date:** 5/14/12

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## **Policy on Free Speech and Assembly for Students**

### **PURPOSE:**

This policy is necessary in order to establish and maintain a process whereby orderly student or student organization sponsored demonstrations and protests may occur without disruption of the educational process.

### **BACKGROUND:**

This policy is promulgated under the authority Section 42353 of Title 7, California Code of Regulations, and subsequent directives, resolutions, standing orders, and Executive Orders of the Board of Trustees and Chancellor of the California State University, and the President of CSU Channel Islands.

In fulfilling its mission as an institution of higher learning, the University seeks to create a spirit of free inquiry and to promote discussions of a wide variety of issues, ideas and opinions, provided the views expressed are stated openly and subject to critical evaluation. The University will protect the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution, and as such, restraints on free inquiry will be held to a minimum and will be consistent with preserving an organized society in which peaceful democratic means for change are available.

### **POLICY:**

#### **Accountability:**

The Vice President for Student Affairs, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, and the Chief of Police

Sponsor or sponsors of proposed events and activities should be aware of and abide by state, federal, and local laws, as well as University regulations and trustee policies.

#### **Applicability:**

All registered students at CSU Channel Islands

#### **Text:**

Universities are venues for creative, thoughtful, and respectful discourse where conflicting perspectives are vigorously debated and thoroughly discussed. California State University Channel Islands is dedicated to affording members of the University community the protections for freedom of speech, expression, assembly, religion, and press available under the U.S. and California Constitutions and all applicable federal and state laws in accordance with the University's purpose



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and function. Within the context of this policy, free speech activity includes, but is not limited to, pure or symbolic speech, assembly, meeting, demonstrations or rallies, picketing, petitioning, mime and theater, music and singing, survey research, and religious or political activity.

It is recognized that registered students may exercise the constitutionally protected rights of free expression, speech, and assembly on campus. In support of this statement two free speech zones have been established to accommodate such activity:

- In front of Ojai Hall
- The lawn west of the intersection of Santa Barbara and Ventura Streets, adjacent to El Dorado Hall.

While it is preferable that registered students utilize the free speech zones to engage in free speech/expression, they may exercise these rights in other areas on campus that are generally open to the public.

There shall be no restrictions on legal free speech activity based on the content of such speech or expression or on the political, religious, or other affiliations of speakers. Illegal speech activity, not protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or by this policy, includes defamation, obscenity, terrorist threats, false advertising, and the promotion of actual or imminent violence or harm.

Members and recognized organizations of the University community should not claim official relationship in matters of speech and advocacy unless authorized by the President or designee. Events or activities sponsored by members of the University community may not be advertised or promoted in such a way as to suggest that they are sponsored by the University. Campus organizations may not use the seal of the University without prior approval of the President or designee. All individuals or organizations using University properties and services must not make any unauthorized statements that they are sponsored, endorsed, or favored by the University.

In all instances, Free Speech and Assembly for students will be governed by the following guidelines:

1. *Disruptive Activity* – Obstruction, disruption, or interference with classes in session or other scheduled academic, educational, cultural arts programs, use of the John Spoor Broome Library,



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research, administrative functions, or other University activities is not permitted. Likewise, infringement on the rights of others is prohibited.

2. *Reasonable Access* – It is important to provide reasonable access to and exit from any office, classroom, laboratory, or building. Likewise vehicular and pedestrian traffic should not be obstructed.

3. *Peaceful Assembly* – Picketing or demonstrating in an orderly manner or distributing literature outside University buildings is acceptable with the appropriate approval from the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students office. Demonstrations inside campus buildings are prohibited. All applicable University policies on written materials apply as well.

4. *Symbolic Protest* – Displaying a sign, gesturing, wearing symbolic clothing, or otherwise protesting silently is permissible unless it is a disruptive activity or impedes access. Such actions should not interfere with others view or prevent them from being able to attend, hear, or participate in other events, which may be occurring. In all instances signs may not be carried with the aid of wooden, plastic, or metal sticks, pipes, or poles.

5. *Noise* – Making sustained or repeated noise in a manner that substantially interferes with a speaker's ability to communicate his/her message is prohibited. Noise levels should not interfere with classes, meetings, or activities in progress. Amplified noise is prohibited.

6. *Force or Violence* – Any attempt to prevent a University activity or other lawful assembly by the threat or use of force or violence is prohibited.

7. *Damage to Property* – Care should always be taken to ensure that University and personal property is not damaged or destroyed.

8. *Other University Regulations* – All applicable University rules, regulations, policies, and guidelines should always be adhered to.