

USE OF UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

I. Statement of Principles

The University of Arkansas has an obligation to its students and to the larger society of which it is a part to provide the fullest opportunity for a free exchange and critical evaluation of diverse viewpoints. This means freedom to teach, freedom to learn, freedom to discuss, and freedom to expose ideas to the critical analysis appropriate to the University setting. In order to accomplish this mission, the administration, faculty, and students have a continuing responsibility for preserving the properly directed use of the institution's freedom to teach, to discuss, and to explore.

The University's dedication to the spirit of free inquiry requires the examination and evaluation of controversial viewpoints, but obviously does not require the endorsement of such viewpoints. Divergent points of view must be recognized, but at the same time kept within a framework of orderly conduct in accordance with human dignity, respect for the individual, and the responsibilities of the University. The University is not available for exploitation, and special interests out of harmony with its educational objectives are not to be served.

II. Policy Statement of the Board of Trustees

University facilities exist for the primary purpose of serving a planned and scheduled program of educational activity. At times when not required in the regularly planned educational program, University facilities may be made available for extracurricular use to colleges, departments, and other organizational units of the University; to organizations composed exclusively of faculty and staff; to organizations which exist solely for the benefit of the University; and to recognized student organizations with the approval of the faculty advisor.

University facilities under the law cannot be made available to other organizations for their own purposes. However, when a facility is in use neither for a regularly scheduled educational activity nor for an extracurricular use by one of the University organizations listed above, the President or Chancellor is authorized to approve the use of the facility when such use serves the educational objectives of the University. It is an objective of the University to provide opportunities for University and broader communities to see and hear major leaders from throughout the state, nation, and world. Speeches and debates by or on behalf of candidates for major state or national offices may be scheduled in University facilities under arrangements which allow reasonable opportunities for opposing candidates or points of view. It must be made clear that the University neither supports nor opposes the views stated by and/or the candidacy of such individuals.

III. Procedures

A. Faculty and Staff

A member of the faculty shall be free to invite outside speakers to participate in any class, conference, or institute which is a part of the University educational program.

Any college, department or other organization of the faculty or administration, any organization composed exclusively of faculty members or University employees and any other organization whose membership includes University faculty members and which exists solely for the benefit of the University or for scholarly pursuits may use University facilities to hold meetings, subject only to local regulations regarding room scheduling.

B. Student Organizations

Any recognized student organization may use University facilities for open or closed meetings or performances subject only to local campus scheduling regulations.

If an off-campus speaker or performer is to be invited to address an open meeting of a recognized student organization, the faculty advisor must give his or her approval prior to the time that an invitation is extended and publicity is released. In the event that the group does not currently have an official advisor, the approval of a faculty member or administrator is required. The University administration may properly inform an organization concerning its views on any proposed meeting to which an off-campus speaker or performer has been invited but will leave the final decision concerning the meeting to the organization and its advisor.

Publicity and communications concerning any meetings shall clearly identify the sponsoring organization and shall carefully avoid any stated or implied University sponsorship. In all open meetings at which an off-campus speaker will speak, a faculty member or administrator shall be present and a reasonable period shall be reserved for questions from the audience.

An invitation to a speaker does not necessarily imply approval or disapproval of the speaker or his or her views by either the University or the student organization. In case a request for the use of a University facility by a recognized student organization cannot be granted, it is the responsibility of the University officer to whom the request was made to notify promptly in writing the organization making the request stating the reasons for the denial.

Speakers may be invited to the campus to discuss political issues. Recognized student organizations may solicit membership and dues at meetings. However, money may not be raised for projects not directly connected with a University activity, and private business may not be conducted in University facilities.

C. Non-University Groups

The facilities and resources of the University exist for the sole purpose of supporting and furthering a program of higher learning. The use of facilities of the University should be extended to non-University groups only when that use will enhance, support, further, or enrich the educational program of the University and such use will not interfere with the educational activities of the University.

Requests for the use of University facilities by a non-University group should be directed to an individual designated by the Chancellor. The evaluation of the appropriateness and worth to the University program of a particular use of facilities by a non-University group or organization shall be based upon the following criteria:

- (1) Relevance and contribution to the needs of the educational program of the University.
- (2) Timeliness and intrinsic merit of the activity.
- (3) Availability of suitable space not needed for the educational activities of the University.

University facilities shall not be used by non-University groups or organizations for their own exclusive purposes, for the raising of money for projects not directly connected with a University activity, or for the conduct of private business.

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