

	UNIVERSITY OF DENVER POLICY MANUAL <i>Interim Policy on Demonstrations, Protest, and Free Expression</i>	
<u>Responsible Department:</u> Office of the Provost <u>Recommended By:</u> Provost <u>Approved By:</u> Chancellor	<u>Policy Number</u> PROV 2.30.083	<u>Effective Date</u> May 9, 2024

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Executive Summary

The University of Denver (“University”) is committed to an environment where the open expression of ideas and open, vigorous debate and speech are valued, promoted, and encouraged.

As a community of scholars, we affirm our commitment to critical thinking, inquiry, speech, and assembly. We also approach this commitment as a community of care, with our stated values of integrity, excellence, engagement, and inclusiveness.

To promote our commitment to the free expression of ideas, to further our values of community, and consistent with our commitments to the physical safety of our community and non-discrimination, through this Policy on Demonstrations, Protest, and Free Expression (“Policy”), the University articulates time, place, and manner expectations for the exercise of expressive activity that includes demonstrations, Protests, and Dissent.

B. Commitment to Free Expression

The University adopted a robust Statement of Policy and Principles on Freedom of Expression on May 19, 2017 (“Freedom of Expression Statement”), which is incorporated into University policy through the Statement of Policy and Principles on Freedom of Expression, PROV 2.30.081 (“Freedom of Expression Policy”). This Policy is adopted as a supplement to the Freedom of Expression Policy. Nothing in this Policy is meant to supersede or replace statements in the Freedom of Expression Policy or other applicable University policies. This Policy applies to all activities on University Premises and all other Protests, Events and Meetings (regardless of location) that are part of University Programs.

As noted in the Freedom of Expression Statement:

in advance, as provided in the applicable procedures. No indoor spaces are available for camping.

The University may designate the outdoor area to be used for camping Protests and may articulate other content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions

6. The entrances, parking areas, and sidewalks, as well as the interior areas of buildings in which the University offers services to members of the University Community and others through clinics (e.g., the Health & Counseling Center, Sturm College of Law legal clinics, or clinics associated with the Graduate School of Professional Psychology, Graduate School of Social Work, or Morgridge College of Education);
7. Places of worship; and/or
8. Locations where the University provides or supports emergency facilities, communication systems, utilities, or other facilities or services vital to the continued functioning of the University.

The University will not grant or deny requests for exceptions to use Restricted Locations based on the content of the speech or the viewpoint of the speaker. If the focus (such as an Event with a controversial speaker) of the demonstration or Protest includes one of these Restricted Locations, the University shall designate space for the demonstration or Protest in a nearby location, such as the outdoor spaces in front of the buildings or a common gathering place close to the focus of the demonstration, Protest, or Dissent; but such location will abide by the restrictions above. The University may create a designated space for “counter-speech”, demonstration or Protest which shall not be unduly far from the Event or Meeting, nor be located in an area where the message of protestors cannot be readily observed.

The University may establish reasonably tailored time, place, and manner restrictions in order to preserve University operations and functions. The University will implement these restrictions in a manner that is content neutral, leaves open alternative channels of communication, and is tailored to achieve the University’s interests.

C. Spontaneous, Non-Disruptive Demonstrations, Protest, and Dissent

Notwithstanding University policies and procedures regarding space reservation and Event registration, the University permits spontaneous, non-disruptive demonstrations, Protest, and Dissent, subject to the terms provided below.

A spontaneous demonstration or Protest that is not registered and not scheduled is restricted to outdoor public areas as designated by the University in the University’s protest procedures. The University shall permit such demonstration or Protest to continue unless it must be relocated to allow for previously scheduled activities or to facilitate the continuity of University operations and functions. Spontaneous demonstrations and Protests remain subject to the terms provided in Section III of this Policy.

If, under this Section, the University deems it necessary to terminate or relocate spontaneous, non-disruptive demonstrations, Protest, or Dissent, the University

who is likely to be controversial, the organizer has an obligation to plan the Event sufficiently far in advance to allow for consultation and coordination with relevant University officials to address safety planning.

- C. **“Dissent”** means the expression of counterpoint(s) through symbols, speech, satire, posting flyers, distributing leaflets, action, wearing t-shirts or arm bands, and other comparable forms of expression.
- D. **“Employees”** means all full-time and part-time faculty, including those not currently in an active appointment, University staff, Student Employees, temporary Employees, professional research staff, and post-doctoral fellows.
- E. **“Protest”** means dissent with the goal of change, which may attract attention. Protests may include an actual gathering of people to bring attention to the cause, such as picketing, rallies, sit-ins, vigils, or similar forms of expression.
- F. **“Students”** means persons registered for or auditing classes at the University; admitted to or enrolled in any University program; or on University Premises for any purpose related to the same regardless of whether the class, program, or other education activity is credit earning or part of a degree or non-degree program. For the purpose of this Policy, a person is also considered a Student if they have completed the immediately preceding term and are enrolled for a subsequent term or program; if they are representing the University between terms or programs; or, if they have been previously enrolled, but are on a leave of absence or otherwise have a continuing relationship with the University;
- G. **“Third Party”** means any University contractor, vendor, visitor, volunteer, guest, prospective Student, applicant for employment, alumni or other third party when interacting with the University.
- H. **“University Premises”** means all land, buildings, facilities, or other property in the possession of or owned, used, operated, or controlled by the University, including adjacent streets and sidewalks.
- I. **“University Programs”** means events or activities that are sponsored by or affiliated with the University (whether for academic, educational, pre-collegiate, experiential, athletic, artistic, recreation, or other purposes) that are operated either: (1) on University Premises, or (2) off University Premises under the direction and authority of the University.

V. **RESOURCES**

- A. University Policy SAFE 7.10.061-
- B. University Policy EOIX 3.10.010 -
- C. University Policy SAFE 7.10.062 -
- D. University Policy PROV 2.30.081 -

E. University Policy SAFE 3.20.020 -

F. University Policy PROV 2.30.080 -

G. University Policy SAFE 7.10.060 -

H. University of Denver Honor Code

Revision Effective Date	Purpose