

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## BOARD POLICY

3.25091 BP

### FREE SPEECH, EXPRESSION AND ASSEMBLY

3.25091 BP

Metropolitan Community College (the College) recognizes and supports the rights of free speech, expression, and assembly. It is the purpose of this Policy and these guidelines to inform members of the College community and the public of the manner in which they can participate in protected speech, expression, and assembly while recognizing the College's obligation to provide a safe and effective learning environment. This policy shall pertain to expressive activities including but not limited to all forms of peaceful assembly, speeches, distribution of literature, carrying signs and circulating petitions. The principle of freedom of expression and the press shall be the overriding guideline for student produced College mass media.

Those wishing to make arrangements to utilize College facilities to exercise their free speech rights may do so within the following content and viewpoint neutral parameters of time, place, and manner as clearly published below in service of the College's significant institutional interest and which are intended to provide for ample alternative means of expression. The expression of free speech, not to include advertising or solicitation of for-profit products and services, should primarily take place in outdoor areas of campus which are deemed traditional campus public forums, such as green space. Expression may take place elsewhere on campus, as may be appropriate, such as sidewalks, or other common areas, subject to the parameters below.

Individuals who engage in activities that violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action and/or subject to the control of college police and/or public authorities.

#### I. Parameters

- A. Any college-affiliated individual or group interested in engaging in free speech expression, including distributing leaflets or speaking on campus grounds, should normally schedule their event through the deans of students office. Non-college affiliated groups should submit their request to the office of the campus president. For scheduling purposes, the requestor should provide reasonable notice to ensure safety and preserve the educational environment from disruption. The requestor's name and contact information must be provided to the college prior to distribution of leaflets or speech activities. Nothing in this section will prohibit members of the campus community from spontaneous and contemporaneous assembly so long as the conduct is not unlawful and does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution.

In the event of scheduling issues, the following priorities will be observed:

1. Members of the College community with a reservation,
2. Other individuals or groups with a reservation,
3. Members of the College community without a reservation on a first-come, first-served basis, and

4. Other individuals or groups without a reservation on a first-come, first-served basis.
- B. No one may interfere with, block, or impede the normal access, ingress, or egress to or from any building or portion of one, including walkways that connect such buildings.
  - C. No one may engage in any activity that endangers personal safety and/or that results in damage to personal or college property.
  - D. No one may interfere with or disrupt normal college business, classes, or any organized and authorized college activity inside or outside a campus building.
  - E. No one may interfere with the ability of vehicles to enter or exit a roadway or with the normal flow of vehicular traffic.
  - F. Leaflets or materials may not be forced on individuals if refused.
  - G. Individuals distributing leaflets may do so only within assigned areas for distribution.
  - H. No one may leave leaflets around campus in areas including but not limited to offices, lounges, classrooms, on car windshields, tables, in bathrooms, or stairwells. Leaflets may be given directly to individuals only in areas assigned for distribution.
  - I. The use of amplified sound may be used unless disruptions occur due to close proximity to classrooms, labs, library, and offices.
  - J. In the event of a demonstration in support of or in opposition to a campus speaker or program, displaying a sign (without sticks or poles), wearing clothing conveying a message, gesturing, standing, or otherwise protesting noiselessly is acceptable unless the protest interferes with the audience's view, physically prevents the audience from paying attention to the speaker, or impairs the ingress or egress of a building or parking lot.
  - K. In support of a clean and safe campus, the college will require individuals and sponsoring organizations to restore affected areas to their original form. All debris must be removed at the conclusion of the event; if not, a charge will be assessed to the group.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted as limiting rights of speech, expression and assembly elsewhere at the College.

Reference: 6.15010 BP Academic Freedom  
3.25090 BP Participation in Political Activities  
5.10020 DR Community Use of Facilities  
7.20030 BP Student Political Activity

Adopted: Board of Trustees  
October 16, 2013

Revised: June 11, 2015  
Revised: May 23, 2017