

Student Activism, Free Speech and Advocacy, Use of University Property

Alma Sifuentes

Assistant Vice Chancellor/Dean of Students

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Discussion Points

- Student Activism
- Policy on Speech and Advocacy
- Use of University Property and Amplified Sound
- Student government participation in political campaigns
- Resources

Student Activism

- Student activism allows students to see themselves as citizens of a world outside campus.

Contemporary Student Activism

- 75 % of students believe that America's social systems are in dire need of improvement
- Despite their frustrations, 88% of these students say that they are optimistic about their own future and 66% are hopeful about America's future
- Our students demonstrate the belief that they can make visible progress in the face of seemingly insurmountable difficulties

Contemporary Student Activism

“Today’s student activists organize their efforts based on something I call critical hope. Critical hope is not based in a naïve belief that racism, sexism, classism, and other unjust practices can be easily extinguished; instead, it is anchored in the belief that by challenging inequitable behaviors, college students can work to improve their circumstances and those of their current and future peers.”

- Stephen John Quaye

Contemporary Student Activism

UCSC Student Activist Trends and Patterns

- Blogging, electronic communication, instant messaging
- Coalitions: collaborative partnerships focused on common values and initiatives
- Leader-less groups; working through consensus leads to issues with accountability
- Mobbing tactic
- Mistrust and suspicion toward campus administration

Policy on Speech and Advocacy

Primary Resource:

Student Policies and Regulations Handbook

Section 30.00: Policy on Speech and Advocacy

- **Please refer to Student Judicial Affairs Website for complete policy**

Policy on Free Speech and Advocacy

Highlights

- 30.31: While the campus does not limit public expression to designated areas, the following properties are open to the public generally, but may also be reserved by campus groups: a) upper quarry amphitheater; b) College “quadrangles”; d) large grassy area at High Street and Coolidge Drive; e) quarry plaza
- 30.34: Outdoor displays, including signs, banners and exhibits must be sponsored by a registered campus organization, a student, or a faculty member.
- 30.40: The university recognizes, supports, and shall not abridge the constitutional rights of faculty, students, or staff to participate, either as individuals or as members of a group, in the political process of supporting candidates for public office or any other political activity.

Policy on Free Speech and Advocacy

Advocacy Activities in Residential Facilities

- 30.41: For security purposes, residential facilities are not considered public areas and are not accessible to members of the general public without express consent of residents.

Only current residents of a particular hall may distribute noncommercial literature – including religious and political materials – to other residents of their own building. Solicitation and distribution may take the form of notices placed outside of or slipped under individual rooms, or “door hanger” announcements slipped over door handles. It does not include affixing notices to individual room doors or other areas of the residence hall except designated posting locations.

However, University Housing Services, has made dining halls available for advertising elections via table tents and tabling.

Use of University Property and Amplified Sound

Primary Resource:

Student Policies and Regulations Handbook

*Section 40.00: Use of University Property and
Amplified Sound*

- **Please refer to Student Judicial Affairs Website for complete policy**

Use of University Property and Amplified Sound

Highlights

- 40.20: All persons on university property are required to abide by university policies and campus regulations and shall identify themselves upon request to university officials.

Use of University Property and Amplified Sound

40.41: Definition of “Groups Open to the Public Generally”:

- Outdoor areas of the campus (e.g. lawns, patios, plazas that are 10 feet from entrances/exits of campus buildings and parking lots and are safe distance from the curbing of campus roads...Provided that:
 - Space has not been reserved
 - Between the hours of 7 am – 8pm (evening activities must end no later than 11pm on weeknights and 1am on weekends.
 - Does not impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic
 - Does not disrupt normal instructional, research or administrative activities
 - Tables no longer than 3' x 6'
 - Not used for personal financial gain or profit

Use of University Property and Amplified Sound

Areas that are not generally open to the public: recreational areas and grounds adjacent to private residences (e.g., faculty/staff housing, residences of the chancellor and college provosts), residence hall facilities.

Use of University Property and Amplified Sound

- 40.41.1: Amplified sound equipment may not be used without prior approval by:
 - CAO: All College areas
 - Quarry Plaza Special Events Coordinator: Quarry Plaza and adjacent areas
 - Executive Director OPERS: OPERS Facilities
 - AVC/Dean of Students: all other areas on campus

Student Government Participation in Political Campaigns

- Lobbying: by policy, the student government may “lobby” on student-related matters and these activities may be supported by compulsory fees.
 - Example: all UC student governments go to Sacramento along with UCSA to lobby legislators
- The student government may engage in public-policy oriented activities (communication to a University audience of a student government position) on student related matters. Such activities must have a primarily educational benefit to students and must be decided by the student government.

Student Government Participation in Political Campaigns

- One area that is prohibited is the use of student fee funds to support or oppose a candidate or ballot measure in a non-university election.

For complete language related to student government participation in political activities, please refer to Student Handbook Sections:

- 64.00: *Lobbying and Other Public Policy-Oriented Activities*
- 66.00: *Participation in Non-University Political Campaigns*



Questions and Answers

Resources

- UCSC Student Policies and Regulations Handbook:
<http://www2.ucsc.edu/judicial/handbook.shtml>
- Major Events Policy:
<http://studentaffairs.ucsc.edu/staff/policy/docs/MajorEventsPolicy.pdf>
- Doug Zuidema, Director of Student Judicial Affairs: 459-4447
- Office of Campus Life and Dean of Students: 459-4446
- Sayo Fujioka, Director of SOAR (Questions about Student Organizations or Undergraduate Student Government): 459-4869
- SOAR Website: <http://soar.ucsc.edu/>
- Use of University Properties and Free Speech brochure: Attached

Bibliography

- Quaye, Stephen John. “Hope and Learning: The Outcomes of Contemporary Student Activism.” *About Campus*, May-June 2007/ Volume 12, Number 2
- UCSC Student Policies and Regulations Handbook, <http://www2.ucsc.edu/judicial/handbook.shtml>