

**OUTSIDE SPEAKERS POLICY STATEMENT**

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The University of Southern Indiana considers freedom of inquiry and discussion essential to a student's educational development. Through open discussion of ideas and exchange of opinions, one can become informed and can test and give expression to his values as they relate to issues concerning him and society.

The University recognizes its responsibility to provide students with opportunities to develop themselves as responsible, thinking individuals. Furthermore, the University endeavors to develop in those students a realization that all citizens have not only the right, but also the obligation to inform themselves about various issues, views, and opinions. The appearance of visiting speakers is encouraged by the University as one means by which members of the University community receive the opportunity to explore a variety of views and opinions.

The University recognizes that any subject or view may be repugnant or distasteful to an individual or group holding divergent views. The University also recognizes that the question of appropriateness is not determined by subject matter as such, but by the method of presentation and extent to which critical examination occurs through disciplined inquiry by faculty and students.

Restraints on activities connected with learning should be held to that minimum, consistent with preserving an organized society in which peaceful, democratic means for change are utilized. Each individual has the right to express ideas and opinions; the individual must, however, recognize that those with different opinions have the same rights. Exercise of rights involves acceptance of responsibility. True to the University's norms of advancing inquiry, a visiting speaker should expect and be prepared for critical examination of his or her presentation.

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Un-sponsored speakers (defined as those not invited by a recognized University organization or as part of a scheduled University event) are discouraged. To minimize disruption of campus activities and the orderly movements of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, un-sponsored speakers are restricted to the lawn area east of Rice Plaza and north of the University Center.

On the basis of these premises, the University of Southern Indiana will encourage any University-registered student organization, faculty, administrators, or staff to invite speakers to campus, subject to Appendix C.9, of *Student Rights and Responsibilities: A Code of Student Behavior* and the following provisions:

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1. That the speaker shall not advocate for or incite imminent unlawful activity or engage in activity that constitutes a breach of peace or materially disrupts or interferes with the normal activities of the University; and that the speaker be aware that any personal violation of any federal or state law on the speaker's part will make the speaker subject to action by the regular civilian authorities administering federal and state laws;

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2. That following the speaker's presentation, adequate time be allowed and opportunity provided for questions and criticisms from members of the audience. The speaker must be aware of and agree to this condition;

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3. It should be made clear to the academic community and the community-at-large that the presence or sponsorship of a guest speaker does not imply approval, support, or endorsement by the University of the speaker or of the views or ideas expressed by the speaker. ;

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4. That a member or members of the sponsoring group be with the speaker to present the speaker as well as to conduct any question period;

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5. That to schedule the event properly, to assure adequate facilities, to ensure the necessary publicity, and to assure proper procedure, the sponsoring group wishing to invite a visiting speaker to the University make all arrangements for reserving space with appropriate University officials at least two weeks in advance of the speaker's appearance (unless the president or designee waives the time requirement); and

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Deleted: that violation of the stated policy and procedure subjects the sponsoring group and its members to sanctions as outlined in University policies.