

**SPEAKER POLICY FOR  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
Approved 1/21/2011**

**PREAMBLE**

The aim and purpose of a Loyola education is to produce graduates who are ethical leaders in solidarity with the real world, well versed in their own tradition, aware of their beliefs and values, and tested in both critical thinking and interfaith and intergroup cooperation. As such, discourse, discussion and debate are central to the university's role in education and research. But these occur communally and over time; their adequacy or impact cannot be measured by a single episode. Rational debate and controversy, the free exchange of divergent opinions, and the orderly expression of ideas are considered hallmarks of a university's intellectual vitality and social awareness. This search for truth requires a free and open dialogue to exchange ideas and opinions. It also includes the freedom to express differing points of view, with the assumption that this exchange of ideas will promote clarity, mutual understanding, the tempering of harsh and extreme positions, the softening of hardened positions and, ultimately, the attainment of truth. This can only occur if discourse is continuous and disciplined.

The Provost and the Vice President for Student Development have the responsibility for administering the guidelines that follow below. In administering these guidelines, the Provost and the Vice President for Student Development shall be advised by a Committee on Speakers, composed of students, faculty, and administrators of the University. The Provost and the Vice President for Student Development may consider and recommend to the President revisions and improvements to this policy in a manner consistent with the ideals articulated at the beginning of this document. It is imperative that members of the University community thoroughly read the entire Speakers Policy before undertaking efforts to sponsor external speakers on the University's campuses and property.

**AIM AND PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY**

Loyola University of Chicago is committed to standards promoting speech and expression that foster the maximum exchange of ideas and opinions. This policy aims to assure the promotion of opportunities for the free expression and exchange of ideas, the lessening of conflict between the exercise of that right and the rights of others in the effective use of University facilities, the reduction of possible interference with the University's responsibilities as an educational institution, and the preservation of the University's status as a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization.

Furthermore, the policy is designed to ensure adequate preparation for an event and to ensure that the event occurs in a manner appropriate to an academic community. The University reserves the right to cancel, reschedule or relocate a speaker or an event in those rare occurrences where an individual, a speaker or an event might create safety concern, or where the University may be used as a platform to disparage the Catholic identity or mission of the institution.

Legitimate forms of protest include speech peaceful assembly, the distribution of leaflets or other literature, the circulation of petitions, the posting of notices, and the display of exhibits. These modes of expression must be consistent with any standards and procedural safeguards in the current Faculty, Staff and Student Handbooks regarding solicitation, posting and distribution of information on University property. In addition, these must comply with the following limitations and restrictions.

**DISCLAIMERS AND RESTRICTIONS:**

1. The views and opinions of speakers or event organizers and even the use of the University's facilities in no way imply endorsement by the University.

2. An invitation to speak at Loyola does not include license for unlawful activity or activity that endangers or imminently threatens to endanger the safety of any member of the community or any of the community's physical facilities, nor any activity that disrupts or obstructs the functions of the University or imminently threatens such disruption or obstruction.
3. Expression that is indecent, grossly obscene, and or grossly offensive on matters such as race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by applicable law is inappropriate in a university community, and the University will act as it deems appropriate to educate members of the Loyola community violating this principle.
4. Failure to comply with a request by a presiding officer or any other official such as a public safety officer may result either in expulsion from the event or the termination of the event itself. Disciplinary actions may also be warranted in such cases.
5. These guidelines do not apply to faculty members in the teaching of their classes, or to speakers invited by faculty members to make a presentation that occurs in the closed forum of a scheduled course.

#### **INVITING EXTERNAL SPEAKERS:**

These guidelines pertain specifically to **non-University** speakers. LUC faculty and students may express their ideas and opinions freely but are expected as members of the community to adhere to the highest standards of courtesy and respect. Faculty who invite non-University speakers to campus are the host of such a speaker or guest and are therefore responsible for the conduct of their guest.

Student groups and faculty wishing to invite or host a guest speaker or event on campus for the public are required to adhere to this policy as well as to the policies and procedures set forth in the University Policy and Procedures.

Students should be aware that the Student Handbook lists the following guidelines and stipulations. In order to secure facilities for a public event, the following process is required of student organizations:

1. determine who would be an appropriate speaker given the organization's mission statement,
2. consult with the Dean of Students or designee concerning the qualifications and appropriateness of the proposed speaker for Loyola University,
3. for procedures, please see the Student Activities & Greek Affairs, <http://www.luc.edu/saga/about-getfunded.shtml>

#### **MEDIA**

University departments wishing to promote their event in the media are required to alert both the Office of Public Affairs and the Office of University Marketing and Communications.

#### **POLITICAL ACTIVITIES**

All groups wishing to invite political candidates, speakers representing political campaigns, and other speakers with political agendas need to consult the University's "Guidelines for Political Activities for Students, Faculty, and Staff".