

# **SPEAKER POLICY FOR LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

## **PREAMBLE:**

A Loyola education aims 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. Critical to achieving this goal is discourse, discussion, and debate done in a respectful way throughout a student's time at Loyola ([see Loyola's guidelines on how we, as a community, "Engage with Empathy"](#)).

## **PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY:**

The purpose of this policy is to support Loyola's tenets promoting free speech and expression that foster an open exchange of ideas and opinions to expand knowledge in the service of humanity. This policy aims to protect opportunities for the free expression and exchange of ideas while lessening 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 will pay special attention in those occurrences where an individual, a speaker, or an event might create a safety concern or involve partisan political activity or where the University may be used as a platform to disparage the University's Jesuit, Catholic identity or mission. The University reserves the right to cancel, reschedule, or relocate a speaker or event and to either require event sponsor to cover costs for added safety measures and/or limit attendance to current students and employees.

## **DISCLAIMERS AND RESTRICTIONS:**

1. The use of University facilities by speakers and event organizers does not imply University endorsement of their views and opinions. An invitation to speak at Loyola does not include any license for unlawful activity or activity that endangers or imminently threatens to endanger the safety of any member of the community, any of the community's physical facilities or any activity that disrupts or obstructs the functions of the University or imminently threatens such disruption or obstruction.
2. Expression that is indecent, grossly obscene, or grossly offensive on matters such as race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law is inappropriate in the University community, and the

University will act as it deems appropriate to address this type of speech or behavior.

3. Failure to comply with a reasonable directive by a presiding University official such as but not limited to a Campus Safety officer, representative of the Office of the Provost, or a staff member of the Office of the Dean of Students, may result either in expulsion from the event or the termination of the event itself. A referral for further action to the appropriate conduct procedure (i.e., [Employee Code of Conduct](#) and [Community Standards](#) for students) may also be warranted in such cases.
4. 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:**

The policies in this document pertain specifically to **non-University speakers**. Loyola faculty, staff, 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 as outlined in the [Engage with Empathy: Respect the Conversation Guidelines](#). Students should be aware that the Community Standards includes a “Free Expression: Student Demonstration and Fixed Exhibit Policy” (Section 603). This policy, and all other policies in the Community Standards, apply to all Loyola students. Faculty, staff and students who invite non-University speakers to campus are the hosts of such speakers and are therefore responsible for their conduct and any costs associated with measures the University deems necessary to address health, wellness and safety concerns.

Faculty, staff and students/student groups wishing to invite or host a guest speaker or event on campus for the public are required to comply with this policy, as well as applicable University reservation policies and procedures, which are available at: [http://www.luc.edu/campus\\_reservations/policiesandprocedures/](http://www.luc.edu/campus_reservations/policiesandprocedures/)

Before inviting a speaker to campus, consider the following:

- Does the speaker’s message support our Ignatian values?
- Determine if the speaker’s ideals and perspectives reflect those outlined in your department or organization’s mission statement.
- Are there members of our community that may be negatively impacted by this speaker? If so, to honor our Jesuit values of caring for others, to what extent and what kinds of support and safety measures might be needed to ensure everyone’s safety and well-being?
- Consult with University officials about the appropriateness and qualifications of the proposed speaker:
  - Students: Contact the Center for Student Engagement at [activities@luc.edu](mailto:activities@luc.edu) or review the procedures for requesting a speaker in the Student Organization Handbook,
  - Staff: Speak with your supervisor, office director or area vice president
  - Faculty: Connect with your department chair, school dean’s office or the Office of the Provost.

### **INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA:**

Faculty, staff, and student organizations who have scheduled an event/speaker on

campus must:

1. Submit the approved event/speaker to the University Calendar at [LUC.edu/calendar](https://luc.edu/calendar).
2. Submit event/speaker information to University Marketing and Communication at [umc@LUC.edu](mailto:umc@LUC.edu) for consideration in Loyola's internal communication channels, alumni magazine, and potential media coverage.
3. Notify the Assistant Vice President for University Marketing and Communication, Office of the Dean of Students, Campus Safety, and Office of the Provost if the event/speaker may be controversial and could draw interest from the

**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](#)"

*Last Updated: 08/23/2024*