Purpose
The University of New Orleans provides an environment in which the freedom of expression is encouraged and whose primary focus is to provide education for its student community. As with any institution of higher learning, the university has established policies and procedures to safeguard the educational process, protect individual and institutional rights and property, and ensure the safety of all members of the university community. Unlawful, lewd, hateful, racist, vulgar, or indecent activities disruptive to the normal operations of the university, including classes and university business activities, will not be tolerated by the university. The University reserves the right to regulate time, place, and manner to ensure that the institutional mission and daily functions are not compromised.

Authority
Part Two, Chapter III, Section IV of the bylaws and rules of the University of Louisiana System.

Definitions
Demonstration and Mass Protest - A demonstration or “street protest” is action by a mass group or collection of groups of people in favor of a political or other cause; it normally consists of walking en masse and either beginning with or meeting at a designated endpoint or rally, to hear speakers.

Distribution of Literature – Printed material distributed on campus.

Freedom of Expression – Act of seeking, receiving and imparting information or ideas without fear of retaliation or censorship.

General Policy

Demonstration and Mass Protest

Demonstration and protest is a necessary and acceptable means of expression within the University of New Orleans community. However, protest becomes unacceptable when it obstructs the basic
exchange of ideas. Such obstruction is a form of censorship, no matter who initiates it or for what reasons.

Protests or demonstrations that infringe upon the rights of others to peaceful assembly, orderly protest, free exchange of ideas, or that interfere with the rights of others to make use of or enjoy the facilities or attend the functions of the University cannot be tolerated.

Picket lines which permit free passage of those who wish to pass, and signs, banners and peaceful assemblies are all acceptable. However, the carrying of signs that by virtue of their construction constitute a hazard to other people may not be permitted. Specifically, this means that signs should be constructed entirely of soft material such as cardboard or cloth and that signs should not be attached to rigid sticks or poles when such signs are used inside University buildings. Actions such as the following, are unacceptable: blocking; obstructing or impeding passage of a person or vehicle; actions that result in bodily harm; erecting or placing of obstructions that result in depriving others of their rights.

Halting a lecture, debate, or any public forum is an unacceptable form of protest. "Halting" means directly or indirectly preventing a speaker from speaking - even for a brief period of time - or seizing control of a public forum for one's own purposes.

**Distribution of Literature**

The University recognizes that the student's right as a citizen to speak and write freely is protected by the First Amendment. Printed material may be distributed on campus by a student or registered student organization in an orderly manner to those who wish to receive it as long as the material is not obscene, racist, hateful, vulgar, libelous, or a form of harassment and is free from non-permissible solicitation. Distribution must be conducted so as not to interfere with free and unimpeded flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, or to disturb or interfere with academic or institutional activities.

**Freedom of Expression**

The purpose of the University of New Orleans Freedom of Expression Policy is to provide for expressive activity to be conducted on designated grounds of the university in a manner consistent with First Amendment principles. Groups or individuals engaging in the type of non-protected activities described above or failing to comply with other university policies or applicable local, state, and federal laws may face immediate removal from the campus and other appropriate actions by university officials and University Police. It is the intention of the University of New Orleans that any portion of this policy deemed to be violation of the First Amendment be declared severable and that the remaining policy provisions be continued in effect.

The Freedom of Expression Policy is applicable to the University of New Orleans students, faculty, staff, and others in the community who wish to engage in extracurricular public speaking, the distribution of literature, poster displays, sign displays, and any other type of graphic exhibitions, expressive performances, petitioning, or similar activities at designated locations on university property. This policy does not apply to official university activities. Except as otherwise designated below, university grounds and buildings are intended for use by the University of New Orleans students, faculty, and staff.
Expressive activities permitted under this policy do not imply official endorsement by the university. Groups or individuals engaged in expressive activities are responsible for the content of the expression. For more information regarding this policy, please refer to the Student Affairs website: http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs/student-handbook-policies.aspx

Cost and Insurance
Although, in general, the cost of basic cleanup and security is assumed by the university as part of its normal operation, organizers of demonstration or mass protest may be liable for excessive cleanup costs or additional security. Under certain extraordinary circumstances, the university may also require organizer to purchase additional insurance and/or pay a fee to cover the cost. These requirements are determined as part of the notification procedure.

PROCEDURE

Demonstration and Mass Protest Procedures
Students or student organizations planning to picket or engage in any type of demonstration or mass protest must notify in writing the Office of Student Affairs at least 24 hours prior to the proposed activity. The notification is necessary so that University personnel are aware of this type of activity and are able to insure the safety of all participants involved. However, involvement in campus demonstrations which disrupts the normal operations of the University and infringe on the rights of others is a University violation.

Distribution of Literature Procedures

1. All literature distributed on campus by a student or a student organization shall identify the student or organization distributing it.

2. No student or student organization may distribute literature by accosting individuals or by hawking or shouting.

3. No student or student organization may use the University’s name or symbols in identifying the publisher of printed matter distributed on the campus without the express authorization of the University.

4. A student organization distributing printed materials on campus shall clean the area around which the materials were distributed.

5. All literature distributed must be in English.

General Requirement Regarding Non-Student Groups on Campus

This policy applies equally to non-students and non-student groups seeking to engage in expressive activity on the university’s campus. To protect the safety and well-being of its students, the University of New Orleans requires non-students and non-student organizations desiring to engage in expressive activity on its campus to submit an event registration form request for approval, at least three (3) working days prior to the proposed activity. Please see the Student Affairs website to access the form and for more information: http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs/student-handbook-policies.aspx
Please refer to [Guidelines for Posting Signs and/or Fliers on Campus](#) for additional information.

John W. Nicklow  
President  
University of New Orleans  

*Policy Updates:*  
*Revisions: 9/18/2017*