
Introduction

The University of Nebraska honors the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and has long dedicated itself to the free exchange of ideas.

The purpose of this policy is to articulate, clarify and underscore that long-standing commitment in a manner that furthers both freedom of expression and the University's mission of teaching, research and public service. The first section of this policy sets forth the University's and the Board of Regents' commitment to the tenets of Free Expression; the second section provides a framework for campuses to provide what are referred to as "facilities use plans" or programs applicable to particular spaces and resources on their campuses, consistent with that commitment, the law, and the University's mission; and the final section is a mandate for education with respect to the rights surrounding the First Amendment.

Commitment to Free Expression

"Freedom of speech" and "freedom of expression" refer to one's Constitutional right to articulate and express ideas and opinions, through any means, i.e. speaking, writing, or artistic expression, without fear of government retaliation, censorship, or other sanction. The University of Nebraska is a public institution of higher education, which holds dear this right, a right that is indispensable to its ability to transmit knowledge and fundamental to the University community's pursuit to discover, explore, interpret, and question knowledge

community--its Board, administra

expression, in accordance with the law, in order to ensure that the ordinary activities of the University are not disrupted. Such regulations must be narrowly tailored to serve significant, viewpoint-neutral interests, and cannot substantially burden more speech than necessary to protect the University's interest.

Spaces such as classrooms, where teaching takes place; or labs where research is conducted; or offices where administrative business is carried out, are not freely open to the public. There are, however, spaces within our campuses that may be opened to both members of the University community and the public for a variety of purposes, including speech and expression. Therefore, under the direction of the Chancellors, each of the campuses are to implement facilities use plans, programs and strategies on their respective campuses, along with rules and processes grounded in law and University policies, to

Education

Last, yet of great importance, regular opportunities for the University community to educate itself about the First Amendment and this policy, as well as the existence and implementation of campus facilities use programs, are imperative. The understanding of one's constitutional rights, and the expectations surrounding those rights, is vital to the free exchange of ideas, information, opinions and discovery. Failure to understand and learn the