

Policy No.: 007

Policy Name: Free Speech on Campus

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the right of free speech on campus.

II. Review

This policy will be reviewed every four years or whenever circumstances require review, whichever is earlier, by the University Counsel with recommendations for revision presented to the Board of Trustees.

III. Definitions

A. Restrictions on the time, place, and manner of free speech that do not violate the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 19 of the Tennessee Constitution that are reasonable, content- and viewpoint-neutral, narrowly tailored to satisfy a significant institutional interest, and leave open ample alternative channels for the communication of the information or message of its intended audience.

B. Any person, whether or not the person is compensated by Tennessee Tech, and regardless of political affiliation, who is tasked with providing scholarship, academic research or teaching. For the purposes of this policy, "employee" includes tenured and non-tenured professors, adjunct professors, visiting professors, lecturers, graduate student instructors and those in comparable positions. Faculty members whose primary responsibilities are administrative or managerial.

C. Speech, expression, or assemblies protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

IV. Policy

- A.** Tennessee Tech affirms that Students have a fundamental right to Free Speech.
- B.** Tennessee Tech is committed to giving Students the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, learn, and discuss any issue, subject to limitations set forth in this policy or in state or federal law.
- C.** Tennessee Tech is committed to maintaining a campus as a marketplace of ideas for all Students and all Faculty in which the free exchange of ideas is not to be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the community to be disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical, or wrong-headed.
- D.** Students and Faculty are allowed to make judgments about ideas for themselves and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress Free Speech, but by openly and

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B. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as prohibiting Tennessee Tech from imposing measures that do not violate the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 19 of the Tennessee Constitution such as:

1. Constitutional time, place, and manner restrictions;
2. Reasonable and viewpoint-neutral restrictions in nonpublic forums;
3. To guide the use of property owned by the University of Tennessee System for the benefit of Students and Faculty and preserve the uses of the property for the