

DEMONSTRATION / PICKETING POLICY

PURPOSE

As an educational institution, Westfield State supports the constitutional right of free speech. The University recognizes the fact that any individual or group may demonstrate. Demonstrations must be carried out in such a way as not to inflict bodily injury; obstruct physical movement to, from, or within any place on the campus; nor to be disruptive of any activity on campus. Such forms of demonstration may be (but are not limited to) distribution of literature, silent or symbolic protest, vocal dissent, and/or picketing. In the event any type of demonstration interferes with University business and/or another University event, the University will take appropriate action. All activities must be conducted in accordance with the policy set below.

POLICY

1. Faculty, staff and/or students must notify the Vice President, Student Affairs 48 hours in advance of any demonstration and or picketing activity.
2. All faculty, staff and students have a right to demonstrate on University property provided, however, that no such demonstration shall be permissible which for any reason of time, place, or type of behavior materially disrupts class work or other University business, or involves substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others.
3. Campus buildings are for University business. Any form of demonstration that interferes with University business in office or classroom spaces is a violation of this policy. Picketing is not permitted inside University buildings.
4. Demonstrators are prohibited from blocking free entry to or free exit from buildings, interfering with free movement, or presenting obstacles to regular University activities. "Interfering with free movement" is defined as any physical denial or restriction of a person's ability to freely reach or leave a given geographical area, or harassment, which leaves a person feeling intimidated and prevents them from normal movement. Obstacles are defined as physical devices, bodies, or signs which cause interference with free movement or sounds which prevent normal communication.
5. There shall be no interference with demonstrations on the grounds of content of speech, except for any speech or demonstration which incites immediate, violent action and represents a clear and present danger to the campus community, which shall be a violation of this policy.
6. No person shall intentionally and substantially interfere with the freedom of expression of another person on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Westfield State University

Policy concerning:

section Public Safety

number 3020

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APPROVED: June 8, 2006

REVIEWED: December 2017

7. Failure to cease any activity in violation of this policy or other University policies immediately following either written or oral notice by a College official shall also be a violation of this policy.
8. Any violation of this policy will subject the violators to applicable actions as defined in the Student Handbook, collective bargaining agreements, and/or Massachusetts General Laws.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every three years, and revised as needed, by the Director of Public Safety and the Vice President for Student Affairs.