

LAKE -SUMTER STATE COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

TITLE: SPEECH, EXPRESSION, AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY
ON COLLEGE PROPERTY

NUMBER: PRO2-26

REFERENCE: F.S.1004.097 F.S.102.031, F.S.871.01, F.S.790
PRO7-16 Internal College Events & Facility Usage

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I. PURPOSE

The College values the freedoms of speech, thought, expression, and assembly as part of its core educational and intellectual mission while also maintaining the integrity of the academic environment and the security of students, employees, visitors, and college property; including those partnership spaces located on college property. Students and non-students who engage in expressive activities in permitted outdoor areas may do so.

Demonstrations, assemblies, and dissemination of information are valid expressions, whether in support or dissenting opinions, provided they do not materially and substantially disrupt the academic and administrative functions of the College or infringe upon the rights of other individuals or organizations to engage in expressive activities. It is not the role of the College to shield individuals from protected expressive activities, including, without limitation, ideas and opinions they may find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive.

This procedure in no way prohibits individuals from engaging in conversations at the College but rather ensures that:

1. Students and non-students have the freedom to engage in outdoor expressive activities within the limits of reasonable content neutral restrictions on time, place, and manner of expression that are consistent in accordance with the Florida Campus Free Expression Act provided they do not materially disrupt previously scheduled or reserved activities on campus;
2. Students and non-students are permitted to assemble and engage in spontaneous protected outdoor expressive activities as long as such activity is not unlawful and does not materially and substantially disrupt significant college interests;
3. The College campus and facilities are available to speakers sponsored by student groups or departments/programs pursuant to college procedures;
4. Commercial speech is not protected by law as an expressive activity.

The College affirms its commitment to freedom of speech, assembly, and expression even when the language or ideas of those seeking a venue for free expression may contradict the College's ideals and policies or the personal views of its employees and students. The content of expressive activities will not be considered in regulating speech in outdoor areas, except to the extent permitted by law. The College prohibits free speech zones, but may place reasonable limitations on time, place, and manner of speech. The College does not take a position on the content or viewpoint of the expression, but rather allows for a variety of viewpoints to be expressed.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- a. Commercial speech: speech in which the i 2.r.0.6 (i)-10.4 (e)10.6 (i)-10.4 (hdu(m)()Tj 0.011 Tc -

- conduct that is protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Art. I of the State Constitution, including, but not limited to, lawful protests and counterprotests in the outdoor areas of campus or minor, brief, or fleeting nonviolent disruptions that are isolated or brief in duration.
- e. Outdoor areas of campus generally accessible areas of a campus of a public institution of higher education in which members of the campus community are commonly allowed, including grassy areas, walkways, or other similar common areas. The term does not include outdoor areas of campus to which access is restricted.
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procedures related to college events. The College does not permit students and non-students to bring and set up their own tables and chairs in outdoor areas of campus.

- f. Students and non-students who engage in expressive activities in permitted outdoor areas may do so freely, spontaneously and contemporaneously as long as the conduct is lawful and does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the College or infringe upon the rights of others to engage in expressive activities. Conduct that may materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the College or infringe upon the rights of others to engage in expressive activities may include:
1. Obstruction of vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian or other traffic;
 2. Obstruction of entrances or exits to buildings or driveways or impeding entry or exit from any building or parking lot or vehicular path;
 3. Violations of a state law, rule, regulation, or local ordinance;
 4. Threats to passerby or use of "fighting words" which are those words that by their mere utterance inflict violence or would tend to incite a reasonable person to violence or other breach of Title 90 Td 6.7 (h)-9 .04 r

clubs, bats, or weapons or firearms, as defined in Florida Statutes Chapter 790.
property.

- j. Individuals or groups who engage in expressive activity in outdoor areas on college property may not build structures or barricades, erect unmanned aerial systems, or establish any type of camping area, including the use of tents, sleeping bags, pillows, etc

VI. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY ON CAMPUS

Individuals, organizations or groups, both internal and external to the College, may not conduct commercial transactions or engage in commercial speech on college property unless directly authorized through specific contracts or arrangements with college officials.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION/PETITIONING

The College encourages the dissemination of non-commercial information and petitioning on college property in a way that is consistent with the educational mission of the College, its orderly operation, cleanliness, aesthetics, and the safety of its students, employees, and visitors.

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