



Committee Meeting: Policy & Governance Committee	Date: September 17, 2024
Committee Chair: Melodie Baker	
New or Edited: Edited	

**POLICY NAME:** Freedom of Expression and Assembly Student Policy

**POLICY TYPE:** Board

**SUBMITTED BY:** Senior Vice President of Operations, Vice President of Administration, Executive Director of Legal Affairs

**ISSUE OR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

The State University of New York (SUNY) respects and fully supports the rights of free speech guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and the State of New York. SUNY values the free expression of ideas and supports individuals' right to assemble.

SUNY Erie Community College promulgates this policy to provide meaningful opportunities for members of our community to express their views and to ensure that the time, place, and manner of such expression does not interfere with the safety and security of our campus community or disrupt the regular operations of the campus.

**NEW OR EDITED POLICY:** Edited

**POLICY:**

SUNY Erie Community College students are guaranteed the rights of free inquiry and expression. Subject to applicable content-neutral policy, students are guaranteed the right to hold public meetings and engage in peaceful and orderly assemblies—including, but not limited to, protests, demonstrations, rallies, vigils, marches, and picketing—in and upon designated public areas of campus grounds and buildings.

SUNY Erie Community College designates the following as public areas for the purpose of peaceful and orderly assemblies:

North: Student Quad long rectangular grass area in front of Library.

South: Lower level of courtyard.

City: Main Lobby and stairs/sidewalk Ellicott.

SUNY Erie Community College will not interfere with orderly assemblies in designated public areas of grounds and buildings unless participants engage in any of the following:

1. Conduct that prevents the orderly administration of college classes, lectures, meetings, interviews, ceremonies, and other campus events or College operations;



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2. Conduct that obstructs the free movement of vehicles or of persons, including, but not limited to in any building or facility, inclusive of blocking hallways and doors;
3. Engage in conduct that could foreseeably cause injury or damage to persons or property;
4. Operation of audio amplification equipment in a manner that conflicts with normal College operations or that is deemed injurious to health and safety, or that is in violation of local town/village/city ordinances;
5. Constructing or erecting structures, whether or not they are anchored, inclusive of screens and/or objects requiring penetration in concrete or grass, or camp on College grounds without authorization as set forth in the Freedom of Expression and Assembly Procedures on the college's website. Indoor and outdoor encampment is generally prohibited ([see campus policy on tents/camping]);
6. Possession and/or ignition of an open flame of any type, including, but not limited to, torches;
7. Assemblies lasting more than one day, duration not to exceed 12 hours in a one-day period, and assemblies between the hours of 10:00PM and 8:00AM are prohibited;
8. Activities that violate the provisions of [SUNY Policy 3653, Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order](#); and
9. Activities that violate the provisions of any other applicable campus policy, including but not limited to: Student Code of Conduct Policy, Assignment and Use of College Facilities, Camping Use of Tents on Campus, Identification Card Policy, and Posting Policy.

In addition, the following activities are strictly prohibited:

1. Entry into any private office of an administrative officer, member of faculty, or staff member, or entry into any other college area that is not authorized, without permission;
2. Occupation of a building after it is normally closed; and
3. Obstruction of any roadways running through or adjoining the University's campus grounds.

All individuals participating in protests and demonstrations are required to provide a form of college-issued or government-issued identification upon request from a College official.

SUNY Erie Community College takes compliance with this policy very seriously. Students should expect that violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including interim suspension, suspension, and expulsion.

**DOES IT SUPERCEDE A POLICY/WHICH ONE:** Freedom of Expression and Assembly Policy Board approved June 29, 2017



**POLICY NAME:** Freedom of Expression and Assembly Student Policy - **Continued**

**POLICY & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Policy & Governance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve this Board policy under Committee Briefings, Policy and Governance Committee. This Policy supersedes all prior policies/procedures and practices related to Freedom of Expression and Assembly Policy.

**DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL:** September 26, 2024

**POLICY & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TEAM FOLLOW-UP:**

Following Trustee approval, this Board policy will be included in the SUNY Erie Community College Board of Trustees Policy Manual and the College Catalog

**INFORMATION/INPUT CONSIDERED DURING POLICY & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS:**

SUNY Central’s Model Policy: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & ASSEMBLY STUDENT POLICY & PROCEDURES

The Policy has been reviewed and discussed at the Policy & Governance Committee meeting of September 17, 2024.

**History**

<b>Item:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>
Policy Revised and BOT Approved	September 26, 2024	
Policy adopted	June 9, 2017	
Annual BOT Review/Reaffirmed		
Previously Reviewed and Extended		
Renamed		

**SUNY Erie Cross References**

<b>Policy Name or Procedure:</b>	<b>Where to find:</b>
<a href="https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=351">SUNY Policy 3653, Rules for the Maintenance of Public Order;</a>	<a href="https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=351">https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=351</a>
Student Code of Conduct Policy	College Catalog
Assignment and Use of College Facilities	College Catalog
Camping Use of Tents on Campus	College Catalog
Identification Card Policy	College Catalog
Posting Policy	College Catalog