



# University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

## BOARD OF REGENTS

### 1. UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SELF-GOVERNANCE, GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

#### Policy 1.D: Freedom of Expression

- 1.D.1 As required by Regent Law, the University of Colorado shall protect the freedom of expression of its students, faculty, and staff on campus and in its programs and activities.
- 1.D.2 This policy addresses speech that occurs on University of Colorado campuses, but not speech occurring in the course of research or in the classroom instructional environment. Speech in research and teaching is governed by regent articles 5.B and 7.C.
- 1.D.3 Use of University Grounds, Buildings and Facilities:
- (A) No campus shall designate any area as a free speech zone or otherwise limit free expression to a predetermined and designated area of campus. Generally accessible outdoor areas on the campuses shall be available to members of the university community for free expression in accordance with campus policies authorized by this section.
  - (B) The president of the university shall adopt, in accordance with university policy and applicable external law, regulations and procedures governing the use of university grounds, buildings, and facilities not located upon any university campus.
  - (C) The chancellor of each campus shall adopt, in accordance with university policy and applicable external law, regulations and procedures governing the use of university grounds, buildings and facilities on that campus.
    - (1) The use of university grounds, buildings, and facilities shall be limited to members of the university community, except as the use by others is specifically authorized under regulations adopted in accordance with university policy and applicable law.
    - (2) The use of university grounds, buildings, and facilities may be subject to requirements that govern the time, place, and manner of expression, including scheduling requirements, but all such requirements must be:
      - (a) Reasonable;

- 42 (b) Justified without reference to the content of the expression;  
43 (c) Narrowly tailored to protect the university environment, prevent  
44 disruption of university activities, or serve another significant  
45 university interest;  
46 (d) Leave open ample alternate channels for communication of the  
47 information or message.  
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49 (3) The use of university grounds, buildings, and facilities by members of the  
50 university community may be conditioned upon the payment of reasonable  
51 expenses incurred by the campus in hosting an event. Any such fees shall  
52 be determined based upon the campus's good faith estimate, based upon  
53 the application of objective criteria, of the actual expenses it shall incur in  
54 hosting an event. In no instance shall a campus assess any such  
55 expenses in a manner that is based upon disapproval of the substantive  
56 message that the speaker expresses.  
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58 (4) Nothing in this section grants members of the university community the  
59 right to materially disrupt previously scheduled or reserved activities  
60 occurring on university grounds, buildings, and facilities.  
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62 (D) Freedom of Expression by University of Colorado Faculty  
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64 (1) When engaged in teaching and research, faculty enjoy the associated  
65 rights and observe the associated responsibilities of academic freedom as  
66 expressed in regent policy 5.B.  
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68 (2) University faculty are members of our communities and members of a  
69 learned profession. When university faculty speak or write as citizens, not  
70 in furtherance of their university duties or in the course and scope of their  
71 university employment, on matters of political, academic, artistic, or social  
72 concern, the university shall not censor their expression, initiate  
73 disciplinary action against them, or otherwise subject the faculty members  
74 to adverse employment actions because it disapproves of the substance of  
75 their expression.  
76  
77 (3) When university faculty speak or write in their personal capacities, not in  
78 furtherance of their university duties or in the course and scope of their  
79 university employment, they must make every effort to indicate that their  
80 expression is their own and does not represent the opinion or position of  
81 the university.  
82  
83 (4) The freedom of expression recognized in this section does not grant  
84 university faculty the right to refuse to perform official duties, to materially  
85 disrupt the university environment or university activities, or to disregard  
86 the standards of ethical conduct as expressed in article 8, part B of the  
87 Laws of the Regents or regent policy 8.A.  
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(E) Freedom of Expression by University of Colorado Staff

- (1) All staff of the university are members of our communities. When staff of the university speak or write in their personal capacities, not in furtherance of their university duties or in the course and scope of their university employment, on matters of political, academic, artistic, or social concern, the university shall not censor their expression, initiate disciplinary action against them, or otherwise subject the staff members to adverse employment actions because it disapproves of the substance of their expression.
- (2) When staff of the university speak or write as citizens, they must make every effort to indicate that their expression is their own and does not represent the opinion or position of the university.
- (3) The freedom of expression recognized in this section does not grant staff of the university the right to refuse to perform official duties, to materially disrupt the university environment or university activities, or to disregard the standards of ethical conduct as expressed in article 8, part B of the Laws of the Regents or regent policy 8.A.

(F) Freedom of Expression by University Students

- (1) When engaged in educational activities, university students enjoy the associated rights and observe the associated responsibilities of academic freedom as expressed in article 7, part C of the Laws of the Regents.
- (2) University students are members of our communities. When university students speak or write in their personal capacities on matters of political, academic, artistic, or social concern, not in furtherance of their studies or in the course of their academic duties, the university shall not censor their expression, initiate disciplinary action against them, or otherwise subject the students to adverse academic actions because it disapproves of the substance of their expression.
- (3) The freedom of expression recognized in this section does not grant university students the right to materially disrupt the university environment or university activities or to disregard the standards of conduct as promulgated under article 7, part C of the Laws of the Regents.

(G) Speech on Behalf of the University

- (1) Longstanding policy of the university expresses that only the regents shall speak on behalf of the university, except as delegated. The regents have delegated this authority to the president of the university for matters of social and political concern where the regents have developed a position. The president of the university is empowered to delegate authority to the

chancellors of each campus to speak as to these matters on behalf of their respective campuses. No other person shall speak or issue statements on behalf of the university as to matters of social or political concern.

- (2) Any work or statement regarding a matter of social or political concern issued by any member or group of members of the university must include a disclaimer clarifying that the work does not represent the opinion, belief, or position of the university.

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**History:**

- Adopted: September 14, 2018.
- Revised: N/A
- Last Reviewed: September 14, 2018.