Auburn University
Speech and Demonstration Policy

Responsible Office: Division of Student Affairs

POLICY STATEMENT

Auburn University recognizes and supports the University as a marketplace of ideas. Consistent with its general education student learning outcomes, Auburn University supports our students as they develop their skills in analytical and critical thinking, effective communication, and engaged citizenship. Auburn University supports the right of students, employees, and visitors to speak in public and to demonstrate for or against actions and opinions with which they agree or disagree. However, the University encourages persons demonstrating and/or speaking to demonstrate civility, show concern for the safety of persons and property, respect for University activities and for those who may disagree with their message, and comply with University policy and procedures.

POLICY PRINCIPLES: TIME, PLACE AND MANNER LIMITATIONS

In order to maintain safety, security, ensure the orderly scheduling of campus facilities and to preclude conflicts with academic and co-curricular activities, Auburn University reserves the reasonable right to limit such activities with regard to time, place, and manner.

Demonstrations, debates, and speeches may be held inside University facilities only in compliance with established procedures and proper reservations.

Auburn University reserves the right to require that speakers, scheduled or unscheduled, sponsored or unsponsored, University affiliated or visitors to the campus, use the Open Air Forum (located on the steps of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library) or other approved campus locations if deemed appropriate by the Division of Student Affairs. These areas include Graves Amphitheater, Athletic Department facilities, the Student Activities Center Amphitheater, front lawn of Cater Hall, Student Center Green Space, and other areas designated by the Division of Student Affairs.

Demonstrations, speeches, and debates are to be held in the Open Air Forum or in the aforementioned alternate locations. These alternate locations require special authorization through the Division of Student Affairs’ Student Center Operations. This office is located in Suite 3231 of the Auburn University Student Center and is open Monday – Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, or can be reached via phone at (334) 844-1300. Special authorization must be secured no less than 48 hours in advance of such activity. Security needs, terror alerts, local, University and/or national events may affect the availability of spaces that would normally be available. Auburn University reserves the right to avoid unreasonable conflict with the normal functions and requirements of the University, and to assure that the flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic is not impeded.

To avoid monopolization by any person, agency, or organization, and to best accommodate all users, permits to schedule the use of the Open Air Forum are available in the Division of Student Affairs’ Student Center Operations Monday – Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Authorization for any demonstration, speech or debate will require identification of the individual or organization and agreement to abide by this policy. Authorization will not be unreasonably withheld.
Musical instrument or sound amplification equipment of any kind, including but not limited to, stereo speakers, stationary or mobile public address systems, is not allowed in the Open Air Forum. Other areas on campus are subject to the Outdoor Amplified Sound Policy.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**


**APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to all students, staff, faculty, and visitors of Auburn University.

**POLICY MANAGEMENT**

**Responsible Office:** Division of Student Affairs  
**Responsible Executive:** Vice President for Student Affairs  
**Responsible Officer:** Director of Student Conduct

**DEFINITIONS**

**Speech** is the oral presentation of ideas in an open public forum.

**Demonstration** is any process of showing individual or group cause by speech, example, group action or other form of public explanation.

**Debate** is a discussion involving opposite viewpoints in which opposing sides of an issue are advocated and/or presented by differing speakers.

**Open Air Forum** is a designated area on campus (located on the steps of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library) not confined by walls or a roof. Within this designated area, individuals or groups are encouraged to openly discuss, express, and/or exchange ideas on topics in a civilized manner.

**POLICY PROCEDURES**

See policy principles above.

**SANCTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT**

Campus visitors and all other non-registered students and student organizations violating policy regarding time, place and manner of speech and demonstration will be subject to immediate removal from the campus grounds, without prior warning, by appropriate University agents or officials and may be subject to appropriate legal action.

Registered students and/or student organizations violating this policy may be, upon written complaint to the Division of Student Affairs, subject to review and action by the Office of Student Conduct.
**EXCLUSIONS**

Not applicable.

**INTERPRETATION**

These regulations shall be interpreted, administered and enforced by the Division of Student Affairs.

This policy is not intended, nor should it be understood, as an endorsement or approval by Auburn University of any speech or demonstration, an invitation or license to speak or demonstrate, or the granting of any right or permission to speak or demonstrate on campus beyond the rights existing under federal and state laws.

Persons, agencies or organizations requesting a review of an administrative decision based upon this policy must file a written request to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

**REVISED**

This policy will be reviewed annually and may be revised by the Vice President for Student Affairs and/or her or his designee.