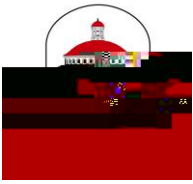




Free Expression and Assembly

1. Policy Statement

A. Purpose and Overview of Policy



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5. Sound amplification, including but not limited to microphones or bullhorns, is not permitted.
6. Any party distributing written materials is responsible for cleaning up any discarded paper and restoring the area to its previous condition, but is not responsible for clean-up associated with the activities of others who are not associated with the party.
7. Use of campus land or property is on a temporary basis for the time reserved.

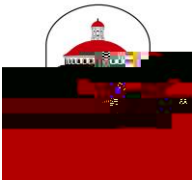
B. Designation of Public Forum Venues

To better facilitate the free exchange of ideas, VSU has designated the following highly visible area as the public forum on the VSU campus: Palms Quadrangle and Stag b

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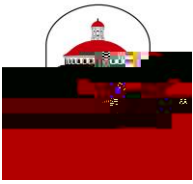
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4.



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the free expression rights of students, faculty and staff (“members of the University Community”). This policy in no way prohibits members of the University Community from engaging in expression in open outdoor areas of campus between the hours of 8:30am and 10:00pm, Monday through Sunday, and does not apply to University-sponsored activity or classroom instruction or participation, but rather establishes a designated Public Forum Venue at VSU and sets forth requirements for forum reservations in the following limited circumstances: (1) members of the University Community who plan an event or expression with 30 or more persons; and, (2) individuals or groups who are not members of the University Community but wish to express themselves on VSU’s campus.

4. Definitions and Acronyms

5. Process and Procedures

The Public Forum Venue will be reserved on a first-come first-served basis. However, if a member of the public or a non-university group has three (3) or more reservations confirmed within a calendar month, the individual or group may not submit an additional reservation request for that calendar month until four (4) University business days prior to the requested reservation date. If, at that time, the additional reservation request conflicts with that of another individual or group (i.e., seeks to reserve the same location at the same time) that does not already have three (3) or more reservations confirmed within that calendar month, the reservation request of the other individual or group shall have priority. A reservation cannot exceed one university business day. Each university business day requires its own separate reservation.

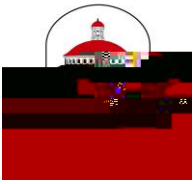
To reserve the Public Forum Venue, submit a completed Forum Reservation Request Form online at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/public-forum-venue.php>

so that VSU may minimize scheduling conflicts, accommodate all interested users, and provide appropriate security for the speaker and the audience, if applicable. Reservations will only be processed on days that VSU’s Administrative Offices are open for business (“university business days”).

A four-university-business day notice is required for all reservations.

The Dean of Students (located in the Division of Student Affairs Suite 3109, on the 3rd Floor of the Student Union) or designee will respond to all reservation requests as soon as possible, but in no event more than two university business days after receipt of the reservation request, by either authorizing the reservation, authorizing and noting any special instructions, or setting forth the reason for denial of the reservation. The reservation request may only be denied for one or more of the following reasons:

1. The Public Forum Reservation Request Form is not fully completed;
2. The Public Forum Reservation Request Form contains a material falsehood or misrepresentation;
3. The Public Forum Venue has been previously reserved;
4. The use or activity intended by the applicant would conflict with or disturb previously planned programs organized and conducted by the University;



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5. The Public Forum Venue is not large enough to accommodate the expected or actual number of persons engaging in large group expression, in which case the University must provide a reservation for the applicant at an alternate location that can safely accommodate the expression provided that the applicant is a member of the University Community and that such a location exists on the University campus;
6. The use or activity intended by the applicant would present a danger to the health or safety of the applicant, other members of the University community, or the public; or
7. The use or activity intended by the applicant is prohibited by law, VSU policy, or Board of Regents' policy.

When assessing a reservation request, the Dean of Students or designee must not consider or impose restrictions on the expression based on the content or viewpoint of the expression. Any denial of a reservation request may be appealed to the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) in writing setting forth the reasons why the appeal should be granted. The VPSA or his or her designee must respond to the appeal in writing within two university business days. The decision of the VPSA or his or her designee is final.

6. References, Associated Policy(ies), and Supporting Documents

Kennesaw State University Freedom of Expression Policy, October, 2018

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Freedom of Expression Policy. July 2017.

Georgia Southern University, Free Expression Policy. August 2016.

L. E. Bird, M. B. Mackin, & S. K. Schuster, 2006. *The First Amendment on Campus: A Handbook for College and University Administrators*. National Association for Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). USA: NASPA Publications.

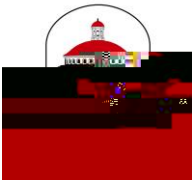
Mississippi State University, Student Affairs OP 91.304: Free Speech and Assembly Policy. April 2009.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Policy on Free Speech, Public Assembly, Petitioning and Amplified Sound. May 2017.

University of Missouri, Joint Committee on Protests, Public Spaces, Free Speech and the Press. March 2016.

University System of Georgia, Board of Regents Policy 6.5 Freedom of Expression.

University of West Florida, UWF/REG-3.014, Public Expression, Assembly, and Distribution of Written Materials at the University of West Florida. December 2013.



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7. Policy Attributes

<i>Responsible Office(s)</i>	Student Affairs, Student Union, 3rd Floor, Suite 3106, 229-333-5941, studentaffairs@valdosta.edu
<i>Approving Officer or Body</i>	University Council
<i>Date Approved</i>	10/09/2019
<i>Next Review Date</i>	10/09/2021