

Southwestern Oregon Community College

BP 3900 Freedom of Expression

Purpose

To establish and define public forum areas on campus and the right to free speech according to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and state law.

Statement:

The Board of Education directs administration to establish content-neutral Administrative Rules, Codes of Conduct, and procedures and practices that are without bias, represent all views fairly, establish allowable time, place, and manner of free expression, and support the mission and the learning activities of the College.

The campuses of Southwestern Oregon Community College are a non-public forums, except for those areas that are designated public forums available for the exercise of expression by students, employees, and members of the public.

Administration shall enact such procedures as are necessary to reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of the exercise of free expression in the designated public forums.

The administrative procedures promulgated by the president or designee shall not prohibit the right of students to exercise free expression, including but not limited to the use of bulletin boards, the distribution of printed materials or petitions, and the wearing of buttons, badges, or other insignia.

Speech shall be prohibited that is defamatory, obscene according to current legal standards, or which so incites others as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on college property or the violation of the college's policies or procedures, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the college.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the regulation of hate violence directed at students in a manner that denies their full participation in the educational process, so long as the board policy conforms to the requirements of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and state law. Students may be disciplined for harassment, threats, or intimidation unless such speech is constitutionally protected.

References:

NWCCU Standard 2.B.2

Adopted: 04/22/2024