STATEMENT OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The University at Buffalo strives to create an environment in which diverse opinions can be expressed and heard. As a public university, it is a fundamental value of UB that all members of the campus community and their invited guests have a right to peacefully express their views and opinions, regardless of whether others may disagree with those expressions. This includes the right of protesters to oppose the views or opinions of others, but not in such a way as to limit or prevent the speaker’s freedom of expression or interfere with university operations.

The university does not take a position on the views expressed by those who visit our campus. However, the university requires all groups using campus space to abide by university guidelines and state laws concerning the exhibition and management of public events.

PICKETING AND ASSEMBLING

Principles

The University at Buffalo will

- Protect the rights of demonstrators by allowing them to exercise free expression.

- Protect the rights of the university community members and surrounding community members, regardless of their participation in a demonstration.

- Protect the health and safety of demonstrators, university students, staff and faculty, and community members alike.

- Ensure that open and accurate information is provided to the public through a comprehensive media strategy that includes both traditional news media and social media.

- Facilitate, to the extent possible, the continuity of operations of the university.

- Protect the university physical plant.

In regard to on-campus student actions and assemblies that tend to endanger life, public or private property or to violate local, State or Federal laws, each student will take the consequence of his or her own actions as an individual before the law, as well as being referred to the appropriate university disciplinary body.
All members of a University community must share the responsibility for maintaining a climate in which diverse views can be expressed freely and without harassment.

The University at Buffalo has traditionally supported the right of its students, faculty and staff to peaceful protest. Always implicitly is the understanding that demonstrators will not interfere with or violate the rights of others.

The University supports individual's rights to assemble. Public assemblies (protests, picketing, etc.) are allowed. Those members of the University community who feel compelled to express their dissent through picketing and other forms of demonstration must adhere to the following parameters:

1. Picketing and assembling must be orderly at all times and should in no way jeopardize public order or safety or interfere with the University's programs.
2. Picketing or assembling must not interfere with entrances to buildings or the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
3. Those involved in picketing or assembling may not interfere by mingling with organized meetings or other assemblies.
4. Picketing or assembling may not obstruct or physically interfere with the integrity of the classroom, the privacy of the university housing, or the functioning of the physical plant.
5. Amplifying equipment is prohibited.
6. Indoor picketing or assemblies may be granted permission to assemble or hold a demonstration or assembly within a specified area within: Student Union, Harriman Hall
7. Any person or group may contact the Campus Life (phone: 716-645-2055) to inquire about space reservations on the property of the University at Buffalo.
8. Assemblies cannot last more than one day, duration not to exceed 12 hours in one day. No overnight assemblies are allowed.
9. Indoor and outdoor encampment is prohibited.

SOLICITATIONS

Persons engaged in picketing or demonstration activities may not enter buildings for the purpose of distributing or posting of flyers and other written materials. Placing flyers and other written materials on vehicles parked in parking lots or parked cars on University grounds is a violation of Vehicle & Traffic Law.