

DANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY POLICY

This policy in combination with the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Policy 6.5 and DCC policy manual section 4400 applies to all buildings, grounds, and other spaces owned or controlled by the college. The term “expressive activity” includes:

- Meetings and other group activities of students and student organizations;
- Speeches, performances, demonstrations, rallies, vigils, and other events by students, student organizations, and outside groups invited by student organizations;
- Distributions of literature, such as leafleting and pamphleteering; and
- Any other expression protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

POLICY STATEMENT

College property is primarily dedicated to academic, student life, and administrative functions. However, this policy also represents the “marketplace of ideas,” and especially for students. Many areas of campus represent a public forum for speech and other expressive activities. The college may place restrictions on expressive activities occurring indoors, but especially for students and student organizations, the outdoor areas of campus remain venues for free expression, including speeches, demonstrations, and the distribution of literature.

Indoors or outdoors, the college shall not interfere with the rights of individuals and groups to the free expression of their views or impermissibly regulate their speech based on its content or viewpoint. Nevertheless, the college may establish reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on expressive activity. Such restrictions must be content-neutral, narrowly tailored to serve a significant governmental interest and allow ample alternative channels for communication of the information.

No event or expressive activity shall be permitted to violate or hinder the rights of others within the campus community or substantially disrupt normal college operations.

NO ENDORSEMENT

Although expressive activity is allowed, it is not endorsed by the Local Board or the College unless specifically approved as a College-sanctioned activity. No individual or group may claim approval or endorsement by the College except with prior written approval by the President or designee.

RESERVING CAMPUS FACILITIES

If individuals or organizations who are not members of the college community (i.e., not students, student organizations, or college employees) desire to reserve campus

DANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY POLICY

facilities, they must be sponsored by a recognized student organization or the college to conduct expressive activities or events on campus.

During an event, the student or student organization requesting the reservation is responsible for preserving and maintaining the facility it reserved. If it causes any damage to those facilities, the person(s) or organization (and its officers, if applicable) shall assume responsibility.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR EVALUATING SPACE REQUESTS

When assessing a request to reserve campus facilities, Danville Community College and its administrators will not consider the content or viewpoint of the expression or the possible reaction to that expression. The College and its administrators will not impose restrictions on students or student organizations due to the content or viewpoint of their expression or the possible reaction to that expression. If other persons react negatively to a student's or student organizations, college officials (including college police or security) shall take all necessary steps to ensure public safety while allowing the expressive activity to continue.

Spontaneous expressive activity:

For outdoor campus facilities and areas, students, student organizations, and their sponsored guests may freely engage in spontaneous expressive activities as long as they do not (a) block access to campus buildings, (b) obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic, (c) substantially disrupt previously scheduled campus events³, (d) substantially disrupt college operations, (e) constitute unlawful activity; or (f) create a clear and present threat to public safety, according to the college's police or security department. College personnel may impose restrictions on students, student organizations, or their sponsored guests who are engaging in spontaneous expressive activities due to the content or viewpoint of their expression or the possible reaction to that expression.

No college personnel may impose restrictions on students, student organizations, or their sponsored guests who are engaging in spontaneous expressive activities due to the content or viewpoint of their expression or the possible reaction to that expression. If other persons react negatively to these activities, college officials (including college police or security) shall take all necessary steps to ensure public safety while allowing the expressive activity to continue.

DANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY POLICY

RESERVING OUTDOOR SPACE FOR EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY

Students, student organizations, and their sponsored guests may reserve the Student Center Building Patio for forums, rallies, demonstrations, and other similar activities. This area is reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Implementation report:

Danville Community College will include this policy in its student handbook, on its website, and in its student orientation programs.

Danville Community college will maintain materials on the policy and provide such materials to any employee responsible for the discipline or education of enrolled students. Danville Community college may also provide such materials to other employees if so desired.

All college policies and materials on expressive activities must have prior approval from the Office of System Council.

Danville has policies and procedures to comply with the requirements of Va. Code 23.1-401.1, and notify the Office of System Counsel as soon as practicable, but no later than 20 days after being served with a complaint when served with a complaint that alleges a violation of the First Amendment.

If multiple individuals or organizations submit conflicting reservations requests, the following order of precedence shall govern: (1) official college sponsored activities and events; (2) recognized student organization activities and events; (3) student activities and events; and (4) all other activities and events.

The expression of competing viewpoints or multiple speakers in proximity to each other does not, without more, constitute a substantial disruption.

REPORT A VIOLATION

Members of the campus community and invited guests should report incidents of disruption of constitutionally protected speech to our online reporting system.

[Violation Report of Constitutionally Protected Speech](#)