

Student Organizations Guest Speaker Policy

It is the policy of the University to foster a spirit of free inquiry and to encourage the timely discussion of the broad range of issues which concern our nation, provided that the views expressed are stated and openly and are subject to critical evaluation. Within our prevailing standards of decency and honesty, this policy shall be construed to mean that no topic or issue is too controversial for intelligent discussion on campus. Restraints on free inquiry should be held to that minimum which is consistent with preserving an organized society in which change is accomplished by peaceful, democratic means.

To this end, a registered student organization, after consultation with a prior approval of its faculty advisors, may invite guest speakers to the campus to address meetings, subject only to the following provisions:

1. Sponsorship must be by a recognized registered student organization.
2. Arrangements for the use of University facilities must be made through SLE and the responsible unit controlling and desired facility.
3. It must be made clear that the student organization, not the University, is extending the invitation and that any views the speaker may express are his own not those of the University.
4. The student organization must take whatever steps are necessary to insure the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.
5. The student organization must provide means for critical evaluation of speaker's presentation.
6. The student organization must comply with any and all conditions for the orderly and scholarly conduct of the meeting in accordance with University opponents.

In a situation attended by extreme and emotional feeling, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate shall prescribe conditions for the orderly and scholarly conduct of the meeting but may not select the speaker or topic. Such conditions shall include, but are not limited to: designating a member of the tenured University faculty, and staff, requiring the inclusion of one or more additional speakers at the meeting in question or at a subsequent meeting so that other points of view may be expressed; or requiring a debate format in which the speaker debates with qualified opponents.

A speaker invited by a student organization must not advocate action or urge the audience to take action which is illegal under the laws of the United States, the state of West Virginia, or which is prohibited by the rules of the university or the Student Handbook/Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of the student organization to inform speakers in writing of this prohibition.

As a potential speaker, receiving invitation form one or more WVSU Student Organization, I certify that I have been informed on the Guest Speaker Policy as outlined above and agree to comply with the conditions outlined above.

Speaker's Name (Print) _____ Speaker's Signature _____