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1-124 Free Expression

- A. The primary function of Arizona's public universities is to promote the discovery, improvement, transmission and dissemination of knowledge through research, teaching, discussion and debate. The universities must strive to ensure the fullest degree of intellectual freedom and free expression. It is not the proper role of a university to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment, including ideas and opinions that may be unwelcome, disagreeable or deeply offensive.
- B. Students, staff and faculty members may discuss any topic, as the First Amendment allows and within the limits of reasonable content- and viewpoint-neutral restrictions on time, place and manner of expression that are consistent with applicable law and that are necessary to achieve a compelling institutional interest if these restrictions are clear, are published and provide ample alternative means of expression. The board's policy on political activity by employees or others acting on behalf of a university is set forth in Board Policy 6-905.
- C. Students, staff and faculty members may assemble and engage in spontaneous expressive activities if those activities are not unlawful and do not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the university.
- D. A student who is subject to the jurisdiction of a university and who engages in individual conduct that materially and substantially infringes on the rights of other persons to engage in or listen to expressive activity, as defined in A.R.S. § 15-1861, is subject to disciplinary sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct and other applicable university and board policies. This does not preclude students from engaging in counter speech as First Amendment principles may permit.
- E. Universities may restrict expressive activity that is not protected by the First Amendment.
- F. The board will establish a committee on free expression composed of representatives from the universities and the board office, which will submit an annual report as required by A.R.S. §15-1867.