

Demonstrations Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the university's approach to regulating demonstrations on university-owned or controlled property.

Statement of Policy

The University of Mary is a private university and its campus and buildings, including some of its distant sites, are privately owned or controlled. Accordingly, the university has no obligation to allow demonstrations of any kind on its property or the property under its control.

For the purposes of this policy, a demonstration is a public meeting, gathering, or activity to express views, grievances, disagreement, or support regarding a given subject. Forms of demonstrations include, but are not limited to, marches, parades, protests, picketing, or sit-ins.

Unless specifically authorized by the university, persons who are not members of the university community (students, staff, or faculty) are not permitted to demonstrate on university property. The university reserves the right to bar from university property any individual who is not affiliated with the university who is determined to be posing a health or safety risk, violating the law, or violating this or other applicable university policies.

In principle, the university encourages dialogue and respectful discussion as the best way to air and resolve grievances. The University of Mary Teaching Faculty Organization (UMTFO) has been granted official status at the university to provide faculty a forum to identify, discuss, and propose means to resolve grievances. The Support Staff Council serves a similar purpose. Student Government and the Student Senate provide students with such an opportunity. The University Senate exists for the purposes of considering proposals that are university-wide in scope. Members of the administration are available to meet with these groups to discuss and hear ideas to resolve concerns.

Even so, demonstrations are not simply prohibited at the university. All demonstrations must be approved in advance. To be approved, demonstrations must have a constructive goal. Organizers, speakers, or participants must agree to refrain from the use of force or the threat of force or other means of intimidation. They must agree to refrain from any disruption to the functions of the university. Specifically, no demonstration may endanger the safety or security of the university community, infringe upon the rights of other members of the community, obstruct access to university facilities or spaces, impede traffic or access to buildings, damage property, disrupt normal university operations, or otherwise violate applicable laws or university policies. The university reserves the right to limit the time, place, and manner of demonstrations that occur on its private property. All demonstrations require prior university approval of the Office of Public Affairs.

There are situations where a demonstration may serve to educate or unite the University of Mary community in support of a cause that is consistent with the university's mission or goals. When the use of signs, banners, or placards, or other visual displays is given as a part of a demonstration they may not endanger the health or safety of others or otherwise violate the limitations set forth in this policy. Such materials may not be affixed to university property, such as buildings, trees, benches or lampposts.

If approved, literature and other printed materials may be distributed, but it may not be forced upon others, scattered on the ground, or left unattended on university property such as tables, benches, or sidewalks. Posting of any materials must comply with the university's [Posting Policy](#).

The directives of university officials must be followed at all times. Violations of this policy should be reported to Campus Safety and Security at 701-355-8000.

Approved

President's Council (August 19, 2019)

Board of Trustees Executive Committee (August 22, 2019)