

**3359-42-01 Student rights and responsibilities.**

(A) Preamble.

- (1) The university of Akron exists for the discovery, preservation, transmission and enlargement of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of the intellect, character and personality of students, and the enhancement of the general well-being of society.
- (2) Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. These freedoms depend upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus and in the larger community. All members of the university community share the right and responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to enjoyment of these freedoms which are inalienable.
- (3) As members of the academic community, students in exercising their freedom have the responsibility of preserving the freedom of others and working for the good of the entire community. The following statement of student rights and responsibilities provides for standards of academic freedom which are essential to any community of scholars.

(B) Access to education. Within the limits of its facilities, the university of Akron shall be open to all applicants who meet its admission requirements. No applicant will be denied admission on the basis of age, race, creed, sex, national origin, military status, or political beliefs. The university of Akron and its colleges shall publish and make available their admission, enrollment, retention, transfer and degree requirements. By enrolling at the university of Akron, the student signifies willingness to promote the welfare of the university.

(C) Academic matters.



3359-42-01

circumstances where the permission of the student cannot be secured, the appropriate university authorities may exercise their discretion in the release of this information.

- (3) Information from disciplinary records may be released only upon the written request of the student. Where there is clear and probable danger which might result in loss of life, personal injury or property damage, the appropriate university officers may release this information without the consent of the student. Provisions shall be made for the periodic destruction of disciplinary records.
- (4) Counseling and medical records in the divisions of the office of student affairs, in the offices of the academic deans and head of departments may contain applications for admission, records of interview and counseling sessions, psychological test results and evaluations, medical and psychiatric evaluations, copies of correspondence and other data necessary for effective counseling. These records are the property of the university and the information contained therein is held in confidence. No record of conviction in a court of law shall be noted in a student's file unless it is reasonably related to the purposes and necessities of the university.
- (5) Except in the case of membership in university-recognized student organizations, no written records shall be kept which reflect the political activities or beliefs of the student. Faculty members and university officials should treat as confidential the information about student views, beliefs and political associations acquired in the course of their work, unless otherwise directed by the student. Where there is a clear and probable danger which might result in loss of life, personal injury or property damage, the appropriate university officers may release this information without the consent of the student.
- (6)

member of the university community as a reference is regarded as authorization to furnish a full and frank evaluation.

(E) Student affairs.

(1) Freedom of association, inquiry, and expression.

(a) Students are free to organize and join associations to promote their common interest. A student organization which seeks university recognition shall petition the student affairs committee of faculty senate, whose recommendation shall be voted upon by faculty senate, by submitting a constitution, bylaws, a statement of purpose, and criteria for membership. Recognition may be granted by the faculty senate; however, university recognition does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of the organization or of the expressions of the organization by the university. It should be noted that day undergraduate student organizations shall first petition the student senate of the associated student government.

(b) The terms of recognition of a student organization shall include the following:

(i) The purpose, objectives, and activities of the proposed organization shall be consistent with the objectives, rules and regulations of the university and with municipal, state and federal law.

(ii) The organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, or national origin in the selection of its members or in its programs. Further, there shall not be any discrimination on the basis of sex or age unless some compelling reason related to the objective of the organization can be demonstrated.

(iii) Each organization shall manage its own finances but shall do so according to the rules and regulations of the university.

- (iv) The organization shall file a list of current officers with the dean of students. Membership lists shall not be required.
- (c) Upon receiving university recognition, the organization shall seek the consent of a full-time faculty member to serve as its advisor and shall recommend the appointment by the president of the university.
- (d) The faculty senate may suspend or terminate its recognition of a student organization upon evidence of violation of the terms of its recognition, or upon failure of the student organization to adhere to its constitution or bylaws.
- (e) Students and student organizations are free to examine all questions of interest to them and to express opinion publicly and privately. They are free to support causes of their choosing by lawful and orderly means, including peaceful assembly and advocacy. In their public expressions and demonstrations, the students or student organizations have a responsibility to make it known that they do not necessarily speak for or act on behalf of the university. The university has the inherent right and responsibility to protect individuals and property and to assure the continuity of the educational process.
- (f) All student organizations may invite and hear speakers of their choosing. Students are expected to follow procedures prescribed by the university in requesting and using

(2) Student participation in university governance. Students are free individually and collectively to express in a peaceful and orderly manner their views on matters of university policy and on matters of general interest to the student body. Students shall be provided the opportunity to participate in the formulation and implementation of university policy, both academic and nonacademic, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the faculty senate and the board of trustees.

(3) Student publications.

(a) The university of Akron regards student publications, campus radio stations and other student news media as necessary aids in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and intellectual exploration on campus. They are a valuable means of providing campus communication, of bringing student concerns to the attention of the university community and of formulating student opinion on campus issues and on community and world affairs.

(b) If the university provides the funds or facilities

governed by the policies of WZIP when broadcasting over the station's facilities.

- (c) To ensure the editorial freedom of student publications and campus radio stations, the university to the extent that its legal obligations permit subscribes to the following safeguards:
    - (i) The media should be free of censorship, advance approval of copy and/or programs to be published or aired. The media managers should be free to develop their editorial policy and news coverage.
    - (ii) Editors and managers of student news media shall not be subject to arbitrary suspension and removal because of student, faculty, administration or public disapproval of their editorial policies or content. Only for proper and stated causes shall editors and managers be subject to removal and then only by orderly and prescribed procedures. These procedures shall be carried out by the appointing authority and include the right of appeal.
  - (d) All student news media must explicitly state that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the university or its student body.
- (F) Off-campus rights and responsibilities.
- (1) University students are both citizens and members of the university community. As citizens they enjoy the same rights such as freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and right of petition, and the same obligations as other citizens; and as members of the university community they are entitled to the privileges and subject to the responsibilities which accrue to them by virtue of this membership. University authority shall not be employed to inhibit the exercise of rights of citizenship, either on or off campus, but neither do students have special rights when in violation of the law. Students shall recognize that away from campus while attending a university

- (2) Students who violate the law may incur penalties prescribed by civil authorities. While university authority should not be used merely to duplicate the function of general laws, the university may assert its disciplinary authority over students in situations where the students conduct off campus. Tw T\* [(c)4ts42als25 0(y)10( )]TJ 0( f).

Prior Effective Date: Prior to 11/4/77, 12/31/86, 12/4/99, 11/24/01, 6/25/07,  
8/24/08, 4/11/11