Aims Community College Procedure

Student Engagement, Inclusion, and Success

Student Expressive Activity

Purpose: Aims Community College values academic freedom, and supports and encourages the exchange of ideas within the College community, including ideas that may be unpopular or controversial.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not mean that individuals or groups may say whatever they wish, whenever they wish, wherever they wish, and however they wish. In accordance with the United States and Colorado constitutions, public expression in the form of speech and advocacy may be exercised at such times and places and in such a manner as to assure orderly conduct, the least possible interference with College responsibilities as an educational institution, protection of the rights of individuals in the use of College facilities, and reasonable protection of persons against practices that would make them involuntary audiences.

The College will not consider the content or viewpoint of expressive activities when enforcing this procedure, with the exception of the limitations described in this procedure, and will avoid restricting students’ expression based on concerns about other person(s)’ negative reaction to the expression.

Definitions

1. Amplified sound means sound that is increased or enhanced by any electric, electronic, or mechanical means, including handheld devices such as megaphones and sound trucks. Other sounds, specifically individual shouting or group chanting/singing is subject to general requirements concerning disruption of official College activities.

2. College community means employees, students, recognized student groups, and Aims-affiliated entities.

3. College operations means the effective operation of educational, business, and related activities of the College.

4. Expressive activity means the verbal or symbolic expression of content, ideas, thoughts or opinions and may include speeches, assembly, vigils, picketing, campaigning, marches, parades, protests, distribution of literature, petitions, displaying hand-held signs, and other similar activities intended to communicate ideas or opinions via public demonstration on College grounds.

5. Literature means any printed material that is produced for distribution or publication to an audience, including but not limited to flyers, handbills, leaflets, placards, bulletins, newspapers, and magazines, but does not include College bulletins, newsletters or official College material.

6. Peaceful assembly is the purposeful gathering on campus outside a campus building of two or more persons whose conduct is peaceful.
7. Recognized student organization means a student organization which has completed all Student Activities, Inclusion, and Leadership (SAIL) Office requirements to be duly recognized as a student organization.

Expressive Activity by College Visitors:
See Aims Solicitation Policy 3-730: Solicitation On-Campus.

Application of Procedure:
This procedure sets out the College’s protocols for use of publicly available indoor/outdoor spaces for expressive activity. Solicitation and vending uses are governed by the College’s procedures for solicitation and vending. Reasonable time, place and manner restrictions for expressive activity may include, but are not limited to, the following prohibitions. Expressive activity must not:

1. Violate any federal, state, local, or other applicable law.
2. Violate College policies.
3. Interfere unreasonably with the activities or rights of other persons.
4. Interfere with or disrupt the operations or functioning of the College.
5. Endanger the health or safety of persons.
6. Knowingly interfere with unimpeded movement in a College location. Examples include preventing access to a building or blocking any entrances or exits in a way that causes safety concerns.
7. Cause physical injury to persons or property or threaten to cause such injury.
8. Defame or harass any individual.
9. Use or threaten violence or force, or encourage others to use or threaten violence or force.
10. Violate reasonable amplified sound levels, such as but not limited to City/County noise ordinances, or utilize amplified sound in a manner that interferes with classes or other events in progress at the College.

Requests for reservations must be made through the SAIL Office in conjunction with the posted process located on the SAIL and Dean of Students webpages.

Spontaneous Expressive Activity:
Outdoor areas are available on a first-come, first-served basis for rallies, assemblies, demonstrations, vigils, and other outdoor expressive activities without prior approval or scheduling, unless previously reserved pursuant to this procedure. Students are not permitted to engage in spontaneous expressive activity in the indoor campus facilities and areas, as these have not been designated by the College as a forum for such expressive activities.

Enforcement:
The College reserves the right to stop any activity that substantially interferes with or disrupts College operations, interferes with the educational process, or violates any of the conditions covering expressive activity under this procedure. Any person who violates this procedure may be subject to an order to leave College property. Students in violation of this procedure may be subject to discipline under the applicable Student Code of Conduct.

The guide to the step-by-step application process is posted on the SAIL and Dean of Students webpages.
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