Speaker Policy

October 18, 2018

Purpose of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to protect opportunities for the full and free expression and exchange of ideas while ensuring the safety of the campus community.

Speaker policy

Quinnipiac University seeks to foster a powerful learning environment where faculty are encouraged and supported to teach and research the most innovative ideas, and students are encouraged to engage in intense dialog and debate. This learning environment is enhanced by a diverse community comprising individuals from varied backgrounds, and with a multitude of viewpoints that may be controversial, uncomfortable to hear, or foreign to listeners’ experiences. As part of our educational mission, it is the role of the University to bring such speakers into the learning environment so that the community hears, is challenged by, and challenges a broad range of ideas from a diverse set of speakers. Critical to achieving these aims is the expectation that all members of the university community will conduct themselves with truthfulness, openness to new ideas, and consideration for the individual rights of others, including the right to hold, hear, consider or condemn opinions different from one's own views, or life experiences.

An invitation to speak at Quinnipiac does not include any license for unlawful activity, or for any activity that endangers or threatens to endanger the safety of members of the community or the campus physical facilities, or for any activity that disrupts or obstructs the functions of the university or threatens such disruption or obstruction. In the event that an invited speaker’s presence raises concerns that his or her appearance might endanger personal safety or result in damage to facilities, a committee with representation from Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, the Faculty Senate, Public Safety and Facilities will be convened to make an assessment and advise the Cabinet. The Cabinet has final authority on invited speakers.

Nothing in this policy restricts the existing rights of Quinnipiac faculty, staff, and students to fully express their ideas and opinions in accordance with university policy. However, each is expected to adhere to high standards of civility and respect in so doing.

Scope of this policy

This policy pertains specifically to non-university speakers invited by Quinnipiac faculty, staff or student groups to non-class events on campus.
Student groups must consult with the Dean of Students, or designee, concerning the qualifications and appropriateness of the proposed speaker.

Use of the university’s facilities in no way implies endorsement by the university of the views and opinions of speakers or event organizers.

Political activities on campus must be “permitted activities” as defined by the American Council on Education’s guidelines regarding “Political Campaign-Related Activities of and at Colleges and Universities,” which are available at: http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Memo-Political-Campaign-Related-Activities-of-and-at-Colleges-and-Universities.aspx.

In order to ensure that they are “permitted activities,” political activities must be referred in advance to the appropriate office. The appropriate office will respond within one week.

- Faculty: Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
- Staff: Office of Public Affairs
- Students: Office of the Dean of Students

Other applicable policies include the university’s Event Management Rules and Regulations, available at: https://myq.quinnipiac.edu/Campus%20Offices/Public%20Affairs/Special%20Events%20Office/Pages/EventManagementRulesandRegulations.aspx.