



UNIVERSITY OF
Central Oklahoma

Expressive Speech Annual Report

December 31, 2020

Pursuant to 70 O.S. §2120, the University of Central Oklahoma submits the following report to demonstrate its course of action for compliance with the requirements of this statute.

Campus Expression Policy:

The University of Central Oklahoma has adopted a nondiscriminatory Campus Expression Policy that is published on the University's website at the following URL:

<https://www.uco.edu/offices/policy/>

The above-referenced policy is viewable by the public two (2) links from any public page of the University's website and is accessible to the public without registration or use of a user name, password or other user identification.

Professional Development for Students and Employees

The University of Central Oklahoma communicates its Campus Expression Policy and expectations to students and employees through educational programming provided to the faculty, staff, and students, as well as publication of policies in their respective handbooks and on the university's website. The university may also choose to communicate new policy and/or updates through electronic communication. Professional development materials include a summary sheet of general education points and an information postcard for the campus community and the public.

- Professional Development Training Information

The following professional development information is provided to the campus community via meetings and annual communications with faculty, staff, and students.

UCO Professional Development Campus Expression Policy

Part 1: State Law

- Senate Bill 361, which became effective August 30, 2019, protects any lawful, verbal, written, audio-visual or electronic form of expressive activity, including peaceful assembly, protests, speeches, distribution of literature, signs and circulation of petitions (“Expressive Activities”).
- The law deems **generally accessible outside areas** of the UCO campus where UCO students, administrators, faculty, staff and their invited guests to be public forums for the UCO campus community, subject to non-discriminatory **time, place, and manner restrictions**, and prohibits the creation of “free speech zones” where Expressive Activities must be confined.
- The law also permits any person who wishes to engage in **noncommercial** Expressive Activity to do so freely unless the activity **materially and substantially disrupts** the functioning of the University.
- Time, place and manner restrictions by UCO must allow UCO students, administrators, faculty, staff and their invited guests to spontaneously and contemporaneously assemble and distribute literature

Part 2: University Policy

- In accordance with the state law, UCO has adopted a Campus Expression Policy which addresses the bolded key terms above. The policy is available at the following link <https://www.uco.edu/offices/policy/>.
- UCO has also adopted time, place, and manner regulations which are published as part of the Campus Expression Policy. Procedures for reserving outdoor areas of campus are published by the UCO Office of Student Life.

Part 3: Expectations

- Guide outdoor visitors to the correct resources on the University’s website.
- Familiarize yourself with the Campus Expression Policy.

Part 4: Additional Helpful Information

- The University designates the following indoor facilities as *unavailable* for Expressive Activities: administrative offices, laboratories, and (during instructional hours) classrooms.
- The public may reserve public areas within the Nigh University Center. Requests should be made to UCO Conference and Events Services at (405) 974-2244, or via the following link: <http://sites.uco.edu/administration/conference-events/contact-us.php>.
- The generally accessible outside areas of campus may be reserved by contacting the Office of Student Life at (405) 974-2364. All scheduling is done on a “first come, first served” basis and without regard to the content of the Expressive Activity.
- The campus community and the public may use generally accessible outdoor areas for non-commercial expressive activities on a first come, first served basis *without giving prior notice* provided the activity does not materially and substantially disrupt the function of the University, as defined by state law.
- Restrictions on the time, place and manner of Expressive Activities have been adopted by UCO. Please read the Campus Expression Policy for a complete list of restrictions that may be applicable to Expressive Activities. These restrictions are applicable on a content or viewpoint-neutral basis. Examples include:
 - No items (e.g., signs, equipment, décor, etc.) may be attached in any manner to trees, bushes, benches, light poles, buildings, vehicles, public art, or permanent signs or fixtures.
 - Non-commercial pamphlets, handbills, fliers, and other written materials may be distributed on a person-to-person basis in open areas outside of building if done in a way to avoid substantial littering on the campus.
 - All use of outdoor space must occur at least 20 feet away from buildings that normally hold classes.
 - The carrying of torches or open flames, wearing helmets, carrying shields or bats, and wearing masks is prohibited.

Copy of Visitor Information Card

Need to Report a Violation of UCO Policies or Law?

Any University member or stakeholder may report an alleged violation of the UCO Code of Student Conduct with the Office of Student Conduct or other appropriate offices listed below. Please report all suspected violations of UCO Policy or Law to the following areas: *(In cases of immediate danger, always call UCOPD or 911 first!)*

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| 1. UCOPD (Campus Police) | Public Safety Building | (405) 974-2345 |
| 2. Office of Student Conduct
Chris Snoddy | Nigh University Center, 136 | (405) 974-5380 |
| 3. VP for Student Affairs Office | Lillard Administration Bldg., 213 | (405) 974-2361 |
| 4. Office of Legal Counsel | Lillard Administration Bldg., 114 | (405) 974-3377 |
| 5. Department of Housing
(Erica Townsend or appropriate Hall Director) | Housing and Dining Office | (405) 974-2746 |

The free exchange of ideas through written, spoken, artistic design, and other forms of expression are vital to our society. As an integral party of this society, the University of Central Oklahoma recognizes its responsibility to encourage and protect free inquiry, open expression, and the opportunity for dissent to a multitude of ideas and issues. However, such inquiry and expression must not infringe upon the rights of others. Neither must offensive speech be regulated in a manner that denies individuals their constitutional rights. UCO is committed to providing a safe and conducive atmosphere for students, faculty, staff, and invited speakers wherein these rights can be exercised.

Feeling UPSET, FRUSTRATED, or DISTRAUGHT about THE EVENT?

Here are a few constructive ways you can respond:

1. Walk away. **REMEMBER, you do not have to stay.** You are not a captive audience. So, you can go watch TV, surf the internet, pray, go to a movie, study, play video games, go to the mall, or go to the Wellness Center to work out.
2. Make an appointment to visit with a counselor about your feelings at the UCO Center for Counseling & Well-Being, located in the Nigh University Center, suite 402, (405) 974-2215.
3. Peacefully engage in a dialogue with the presenter(s) to discover more about their perspective on the topic and, in turn, disclose your views.
4. Write an article about your support or opposition of the exhibition message and submit it to the campus or local newspaper.
5. Register with the Student Organizations Office for a date, time, and location to express your own views on same topic or others. The Student Organizations Office is located in the Nigh University Center, room 424, (405) 974-2363.
6. Develop a program/forum that explores the topic further and elicits a deeper conversation about the same topic or others.
7. **REPORT ANY VIOLATIONS OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, VANDALISM, DISCRIMINATION, VIOLENCE, OR ANY OTHER VIOLATIONS OF UCO POLICIES OR LAWS. PLEASE REFER TO THE BACK OF THIS CARD FOR MORE REPORTING INFO.**

Barriers or Disruptions of Free Expression

The University of Central Oklahoma experienced no barriers or disruptions of free speech during the calendar year ending December 31, 2020.

This report can be found at the following link: <https://www.uco.edu/offices/policy/>.