

Freedom from Disruption: Campus Disruption Protocol

Updated August 9, 2023

The following Campus Disruption Protocol is intended to protect both invited guests' and Tulane community members' freedom of expression, protest, and demonstration, in addition to protecting the safety and operations of the university community from disruption to teaching, research, administrative procedures, and other activities.

The Campus Disruption Protocol promotes and protects the free exchange of ideas through prohibiting the physical or virtual disruption, shouting down, blocking or suppressing a protest, demonstration, or invited speakers' right to speak ([heckler's veto](#)); simultaneously, no one may attempt to coerce, intimidate, or harass any other person into viewing or listening to any communication.

Privileges and Responsibilities

- Hosting: the privilege of hosting a speaker on Tulane property is reserved solely for members of the Tulane community. For the purposes of these protocols, community members are defined as: Recognized Student Organizations, students, faculty, postdocs, and staff. As hosts, Tulane affiliates should follow all Tulane Event Registration policies.
- Invited speakers or guests have the ability to express their message and Tulane community members have the privilege to receive it safely and without disruption that interferes in either's ability to deliver and/or receive the message.
 - Disruption is the process of physical or virtual shouting down, obstructing, suppressing, or impeding the speaker's ability to deliver their message and others' ability to listen;
 - The Tulane community should be able to view or listen to invited guests without disruption;
 - Invited guests should be able to perform or speak without disruption.
- Tulane community members must not be coerced, intimidated, or harassed into viewing, listening to, or accepting a copy of any communication in-person or online.
 - No one may attempt to coerce, intimidate, or harass any other person into viewing, listening to, or accepting a copy of any communication in-person or online.
- Tulane community members should have free movement on sidewalks, roads, hallways, doorways, stairs, and exits from University facilities.
 - No one may obstruct or restrict the free movement of persons including sidewalks and roads; or block hallways, doorways, stairs or exits from University facilities.

- Counter protests and demonstrations are allowed if they are in alignment with time, place, and manner guidelines of this protocol and the Freedom to Demonstrate Protocol.
 - Examples of *allowed disturbance* versus *not allowed disruption* include but are not limited to:
 - Allowed:
 - Holding paper or poster board signs in front of one's body that do not block the view of others.
 - Asking questions during an invited Q&A session.
 - Wearing clothing with words or images on it, unless those words or images are themselves unprotected speech.
 - Symbolic and/or silent acts such as kneeling or turning away.
 - Holding a registered demonstration or counter-protest in an approved location separate from the location of the protested event.
 - Distribution of literature in an approved location separate from the protested event.
 - Not Allowed:
 - Deliberately blocking the audience's view of the speaker or presenter.
 - In-person or virtual shouting down or producing noise with the intent to prevent the speaker or presenter from being heard.
 - Intentional distraction through use of alarms, phones, lights, pointers, etc.
 - Zoom bombing or using online, virtual resources to distract or shut down event or university resources.
 - Creating in-person or virtual barriers to entry or access to the event.
 - Destructive or disorderly conduct.
 - Inciting violence, intimidating, or threatening others.
- If the AVP for Campus Life or their designee determines a point at which protesting a speaker becomes disruptive, they will inform the individuals, explaining which activities are in violation of the guidelines, and advise them on how to continue their demonstration in a manner which is not disruptive.
- Care for Safety: an immediate physical threat to persons and/or property may require immediate Tulane University Police response, as well as situations in which the AVP for Campus Life or their designee determines that a warning may not provide adequate protection for persons or property.
- Tulane community members who disrupt individuals' freedom of speech and/or the university's ability to carry out its mission will be held accountable as specifically in

section VII.A.18, as well as VII.A.2, VII.A.13-15 of the Student Code of Conduct; and in section V.J. and VII.Q in the Staff Handbook.