

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**March 19, 2021
Teleconference**

Agenda

1.0 Roll Call

2.0 Action Item

2.1 Resolution ASA02-21

Approval of Amended Policy 5.10Rev. to Conform with New State Legal Requirements

Mr. Michael McPhillips, General Counsel, will present Resolution ASA02-21 that proposes approval of amended Policy 5.10Rev. to conform with new state legal requirements.

3.0 Information Items

3.1 Academic & Student Affairs Executive Report

Dr. Sunil Ahuja, Provost, Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs, will report on recent activities in Academic & Students Affairs.

3.2 New Behavioral Health Para-Professional Certificate

Dr. Ahuja will report on new Behavioral Health Paraprofessional Certificate Program.

3.3 Student Programming Board

Mr. Eli Cole, Student Programming Board, Special Events Chair, will report on SPB clubs and events for spring 2021.

RESOLUTION ASA02-21

**APPROVAL OF AMENDED POLICY 5.10REV TO CONFORM WITH NEW STATE
LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 40 of the 133rd General Assembly, which addresses freedom of expression on state college and university campuses, was recently signed by the Governor and becomes effective on March 24, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 40 provides that state university Boards of Trustees' authority over university matters is subject to new requirements created by the law; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees' existing Policy No. 5.10Rev., Solicitations and Demonstrations, does not fully incorporate the requirements of Senate Bill 40;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of Shawnee State University amends Policy No. 5.10Rev. and retitles it, Freedom of Expression, to incorporate the changes addressed in and mandated by Senate Bill 40.

(March 19, 2021)

Shawnee State University

POLICY TITLE:	SOLICITATIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS
POLICY NO:	5.10 REV
ADMIN CODE:	3362-5-11
PAGE NO:	1 OF 1
EFFECTIVE DATE:	3/13/15
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	3/2018
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER(S)	PRESIDENT
APPROVED BY:	BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- 1.0 Shawnee State University's campus, including its buildings, grounds and other property, serve to support the mission of the University. The University intends that its facilities be utilized in a manner that respects the rights of expression, affiliation and peaceful assembly. As such, there shall be procedures that:
- 1.1 Place reasonable controls and safeguards on solicitation activity in University facilities and on University grounds.
 - 1.2 Establish reasonable controls and safeguards on protests and demonstrations on University grounds to ensure that the University's administrative and educational functions are not disrupted.

History

Effective: 4/11/97

Revised: 3/11/11; 03/13/15

Applicable Procedure: [5.10:1 Solicitation, Distribution of Material and Demonstrations and Distribution Activity](#)

Shawnee State University

POLICY TITLE:	FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
POLICY NO.:	5.10REV
ADMIN CODE:	3362-5-11
PAGE NO.:	1 OF 3
EFFECTIVE DATE:	03/19/2021
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	03/2024
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER(S):	GENERAL COUNSEL
APPROVED BY:	BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 Shawnee State University believes that the right of expression is as necessary as the right of inquiry and that both must be preserved as essential to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge and truth. The Shawnee State University community, including students, recognized student groups (and those seeking recognition), faculty, staff, and their invited guests enjoy expansive rights to free expression on campus as permitted by the United States and Ohio Constitutions.

1.2 This policy applies to University students, student groups, faculty, staff, and visitors.

2.0 LAWFUL, NON-COMMERCIAL EXPRESSION

The University and its administration will not prohibit any member of the campus community from engaging in lawful, noncommercial free expression to the extent that it does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the University. These rights apply to verbal, written, and electronic means, including protests, speeches, literature distribution, and the circulation of petitions (collectively, “expressive activity”).

3.0 OUTDOOR AREAS OF CAMPUS

Except as noted below, expressive activity is permitted in outdoor areas of campus where the campus community is generally allowed, such as grassy areas, walkways, and common areas.

4.0 LIMITATIONS ON FREE EXPRESSION

- 4.1 The University's commitment to freedom of expression does not extend to speech that takes place on property owned, leased, or controlled by the University, and that:
- 4.1.1 Is not protected under the United States or Ohio Constitutions ("unprotected speech"); and/or
 - 4.1.2 Constitutes "harassment." Harassment is defined as unprotected speech that is both:
 - 4.1.2.1 Unwelcome; and
 - 4.1.2.2 So severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies an individual equal access to the individual's education program or activity.
- 4.2 Nothing within this policy shall be interpreted as preventing the University from restricting speech described in sections 4.1.1 or 4.1.2.
- 4.3 The University may maintain and enforce reasonable time, place, and manner limitations on expressive activity as permitted by law.

5.0 REPORTING

- 5.1 Students should report alleged violations of this policy to the Dean of Students.
- 5.2 Faculty and staff should report alleged violations of this policy to the Department Public Safety, Department of Human Resources, or through a union grievance, where applicable.
- 5.3 Visitors should report alleged violations of this policy to the Department of Public Safety.

6.0 OTHER ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

Nothing within this policy shall be interpreted as impairing the University's obligations under federal law including, but not limited to, Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act; the Age Discrimination in

Employment Act; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; or any similar state laws, as addressed through the University's non-discrimination and Title IX policies and procedures.

History

Effective: 4/11/97

Revised: 03/19/21; 03/13/15; 03/11/11

Applicable Procedure: [5.10:1 Solicitation, Distribution of Material and Demonstrations and Distribution Activity](#)

**Academic and Student Affairs Report
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 19, 2021**

I am pleased to present the following Academic and Student Affairs Report to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees and to the Board.

Provost Report

- As part of the review of our academic portfolio, my office has been involved in a variety of new program developments to align with our current and future student needs. A few have undergone various approval levels, and work on many others is underway. We anticipate a number of new offerings for Fall 2021.
- The process for the new strategic plan is underway and going well. It contains the six existing goals and adds Diversity and Inclusion. We are currently working on tactics and specific metrics for the plan.
- The highlights of recent activities in Academic and Student Affairs are noted below.

College of Arts and Sciences

Recent Faculty Items

- In November, Robert Mendris published an article in *Entropy* (“Effective Number Theory: Counting the Identities of a Quantum State”).
- Leila Lomashvili has arranged for a guest speaker for her TESOL class (LING 4460) as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series. The speaker is Youngjoo Yi from OSU, and she will be discussing Culturally-Responsive Schooling at the K-12 level.
- Nick Sherman (Fine, Digital, and Performing Arts graduate) published a book in January. The book, entitled *Dead End Job: A Tragic Artist Story*, is available on Amazon.

Center for International Programs and Study Abroad

- CIPSA has collaborated with SSUFD to establish various scholarship pools to help drive international student enrollment for SSU for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- CIPSA has received our bi-annual recertification from the U.S. Department of State to continue issuing I-20’s for international students to attend SSU.
- CIPSA is working with international university partners in Spain, Netherlands, and Germany to set parameters and restart our exchange of students after a year-long halt due to COVID-19.
- CIPSA has re-applied for the U.S. State Department IREX program set to start Fall 2021. This will bring at least 5 one-semester and one-year students from Pakistan and Tunisia to SSU’s campus for exchange study.
- CIPSA is collaborating with SSU Athletics to strengthen international student participation and drive interest to various sports at SSU.

Office of Institutional Research and Sponsored Programs

- We applied for an Emergency Operations Center Grant for \$2.3 million over five years, with 33K indirect funding per year.
- We also applied for a 10K safety grant to support the Department of Public Safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunil Ahuja, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs