



451.1.1 - Guest Speakers, Movies and Other Programs

Purpose:

This procedure is to foster a spirit of free and unfettered inquiry.

A college, by its very nature, cannot support the concept of freedom of expression and then deny persons with whom it disagrees the opportunity to give expression to their views. Furthermore, an extension of the right of freedom of expression to some persons and the denial to others, places the institution in the position of endorsing the past records and views of those who are permitted to speak.

Therefore, a speaker, performer, or program may be presented under the sponsorship of any duly recognized student, faculty, administrative organization, or any individual officer of instruction.

The invitation or scheduling of such a program must represent the desire of the institutional sponsor and not the will of external individuals or organizations.

The sponsor must establish full responsibility for the program and help establish the concept that the point of view expressed in an address or performance does not necessarily represent the position of the academic community.

Special Considerations:

1. It is not necessary that the point of view presented by the speaker, movie, or program be congenial to the campus, members of the staff, or student body individually or to individual members of the wider community.
2. The speaker must be accorded the courtesy of an uninterrupted presentation.
3. Except for ceremonial occasions, speakers must accept as a condition of their appearance the right of their audience to question or challenge statements made in their address.
4. Questions must be permitted from the floor unless prevented by physical limitations or the size of the audience.
5. Invited speakers must clearly understand that while they are guaranteed freedom of expression, they must accept full responsibility for their utterances.
6. Presentations must at all times be consistent with the laws of North Dakota and the United States.



Procedure:

1. Speakers, movies, and other programs arranged for a class by a faculty member are the sole responsibility of that faculty member and require no further approval.
2. Speakers, movies, and other programs arranged by a club or organization for the club or organization are the group's sole responsibility and require no further approval.
3. Speakers, movies, and other programs for the College, other than those arranged by (a) faculty members and (b) clubs or organizations as captioned above, are the sole responsibility of the sponsoring division and require no further approval.
4. In all instances, any financial obligations shall be approved through the regular budget procedure and shall be within the approved budget.
5. In all instances, the use of facilities shall be arranged through the established procedure of the College.

References:

NA

History of This Procedure:

First procedure: January 13th, 1986, June 1, 1990, March 6, 2014.

Converted to an Operational Procedure: July 31, 2025. Approved by VPAA on July 31, 2025.