

General Policy - Guest Speakers, Movies, and Other Programs

Policy:

It shall be the policy of Bismarck State College to foster a spirit of free and unfettered inquiry.

Statement of General Principles:

A college by its very nature cannot pay lip service to the concept of freedom of expression and then deny persons with whom it is in disagreement the opportunity of giving expression to their views. Furthermore, a policy that extends the right of freedom of expression to some persons and denies to the others, places the institution in the position of endorsing the past records and views of those who are given permission to speak.

Therefore, a speaker, performer, or program may be presented under the sponsorship of any duly recognized student, faculty, or 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 should help to 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. It must be clearly understood by invited speakers 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 sole responsibility of that group 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 normal budget procedure and shall be within approved budget.
5. In all instances the use of facilities shall be arranged through the established procedure of the College.

Reference:

State Board of Higher Education Policy Manual Section 401.1

History of This Policy:

First policy draft January 13, 1986.

Revisions - June 1, 1990.

Reviewed – March 6, 2014.