

## **Policy Number: 211**

### **Policy Title: Free Expression**

#### **POLICY:**

Georgia Perimeter College (“GPC” or “College”) strongly supports the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and the right to assemble peaceably (“speech activities”). GPC also recognizes its responsibility to provide a secure learning environment, which allows members of the community to express their views in ways that do not disrupt the operation of the College. In establishing this policy, GPC in no way expresses any viewpoint regarding any issues or ideas voiced as a result of this policy. Access to free expression areas shall be provided on an equal, viewpoint neutral basis.

This policy applies to students, student organizations, faculty, staff and visitors.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

The following provisions shall apply to all speech activities on campus. In order to balance the rights, health and safety of all members of the GPC community, the following procedures shall apply to all students, student organizations, faculty, staff and visitors:

A. Students, student organizations, faculty and staff may engage in non-commercial speech activities in the locations designated on each GPC campus as Free Expression Areas. (A list of the Free Expression Area for each GPC campus is attached). The sites identified in Attachment A for each campus are available for speech activities between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except when the area has been previously reserved.

B. Plans for non-commercial speech activities by students, student organizations, faculty or staff in any other area of the campus or at any other time must be approved by the Director of Student Life. The request should be submitted to the Office of Student Life on the Free Expression Registration form at least three (3) business days prior to the date of the event in order to provide College staff sufficient time to process the request, enter the reservation in the reservation database, and to notify Public Safety of the event. All requests shall be considered on a viewpoint neutral basis.

C. Any visitor who desires to engage in any non-commercial speech activities on any GPC campus must request approval from the Director of Student Life at least three (3) business days prior to date of the event in order to provide College staff sufficient time to process the request, enter the reservation in the reservation database, and to notify Public Safety of the event. The request should be submitted on the Free Expression Registration Form attached hereto as Exhibit B. All requests shall be considered on a viewpoint neutral basis.

D. General policy governing review of Expression Registration Forms – Requests will be granted unless the proposed event intends to advocate any of the following:  
The willful damage or destruction of property;

The disruption of the College's regularly scheduled functions;  
The physical harm, coercion, or intimidation of the College's faculty, staff or students; or  
Other campus disorder of a violent nature.

E. No individual or organization may reserve a space for more than three (3) consecutive days at a time. If, at the end of a three-day reservation, the space has not been reserved by another individual or organization, the same individual or organization will be eligible to reserve the space again.

F. Distribution of non-commercial written materials – Handbills, leaflets and similar materials available free of charge may be distributed by students, student organizations, faculty or staff so long as such distribution does not interfere with the orderly operation of University affairs or the free flow of traffic. Any visitor who desires to distribute such materials must obtain prior permission and may do so by submitting a request through the Free Expression Registration Form attached as Exhibit B.

G. Distribution of commercial written materials is addressed in policy number 208.

Any individual or organization engaging in any speech activities pursuant to this policy shall comply with the following procedures:

1. Individuals or organizations engaging in speech activities shall not interfere with the free flow of traffic or the ability to enter or exit buildings on campus.
2. Individuals or organizations engaging in speech activities shall not interrupt the orderly conduct of college classes or other college activities.
3. There shall be no obstruction of entrances or exits to buildings.
4. There shall be no interference with scheduled University ceremonies, events or activities.
5. Any individual or organization that desires to use sound amplification in the Free Expression Area, shall seek prior approval from the Director of Student Life by using the Free Expression Form attached hereto as Exhibit B. If sound amplification is an integral part of the event and cannot be arranged in the Free Expression Area, due to class schedules or other events, the College will work with the requesting individual or organization to find an alternative site for the event on campus. The Office of Student Life reserves the right to monitor sound levels and to require sound level modification. Failure to promptly comply with College directives to reduce sound levels may result in the immediate cancellation of a reservation and/or event.
6. The individual or organization using the Free Expression Area must supply its own tables, chairs, and materials.

7. Malicious or unwarranted damage or destruction of property owned or operated by the College or property belonging to students, student organizations, faculty, staff or visitors of the College is prohibited. Any individual or organization causing such damage may be held financially responsible.

8. Individuals and organizations participating in speech activities under this policy on campus shall remove all resulting structures, signs, and litter from the area at the end of the activities. If this is not accomplished, the individuals or organizations responsible for the activities may be held financially responsible.

9. All individuals or organizations participating in speech activities shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and ordinances as well as all College policies, rules and regulations.

PPAB Approval Date: 11/20/12;

PPAB Approved Revisions: 08/06/13

Policy Council Review Date (s):

SAPC: 2/16/12, FAPC: 11/1/12, ITPC: 10/29/12, IAPC: 10/30/12, AAPC: 10/25/12

**GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE**

**FREE EXPRESSION REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is to be submitted by any individual or organization seeking prior approval to hold an event on any of the Georgia Perimeter College ("GPC") campuses. GPC has a Free Expression policy, which sets forth the rules that apply to these events. A copy of the policy is attached. Please read the policy carefully before submitting your registration form.

Please submit the registration form at least **three** business days prior to date of the event.

Name of Individual Requesting Use of Free Expression Area (Primary Contact):

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Name of Organization (if applicable):

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Mailing Address:

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Telephone number:

\_\_\_\_\_ (day)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (evening)

Email address:

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Please attach to the registration form copies of any written materials that will be used or distributed during the event.

Please check if the requesting individual/organization is:

Student

Faculty/Staff

Other

Event Information

Event Title

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Event description (i.e. speech, rally, march, picketing, musical event, etc.)

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Will you have a speaker?

Yes      No

Name of speaker

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Requested date, time and location:

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Any other information or special instructions:

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Estimated attendance:

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Amplified Sound:

The use of amplified sound or unreasonable noise in the Free Expression Area is prohibited if it disrupts College activities. However, use of sound amplification may be approved in the Free Speech Area during certain hours of the day. Please describe the type of sound amplification (microphone, megaphone, speakers, or any other method of voice amplification) you are requesting and your reasons for making the request. If sound amplification is an integral part of the event, the College will work with the requesting individual or organization to find an alternative site for the event on campus.

The Office of Student Life reserves the right to monitor sound levels and to require sound level modification. Failure to promptly comply with College directives to reduce sound levels may result in the immediate cancellation of the reservation and/or event.

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**For Use by Director of Student Life Only:**

Request for sound amplification:

Approved:

Approved with modification:

Not approved:

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All users of the Free Expression Area shall observe the following rules:

1. No interference with the free flow of traffic or the ability to enter or exit buildings on campus.
2. No interruption of the orderly conduct of college classes, ceremonies, events or activities.
3. No use of amplified sound (other than as previously authorized by the Director of Student Life).
4. The individual/organization using the Free Expression Area must supply its own tables, chairs, and materials.
5. The individual who submits the registration form shall be responsible for ensuring that the area is left clean and in good repair.
6. The individual who submits the registration form acknowledges that he/she has read the attached Free Expression policy and agrees to comply with all terms and conditions contained in the policy.
7. The individual, on behalf of him/herself and any organization submitting request, agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and ordinances as well as College policies, rules and regulations.

By my signature I acknowledge that I have been made aware of GPC's Free Expression policy and agree to abide by its terms and conditions.

Signature of registrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Director of Student Life: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Copies of all completed forms shall be sent to:

Registrant  
College Director of Public Safety  
Campus Public Safety Administrator  
Campus Dean of Student Services

## Attachment A

<b>Campus</b>	<b>Free Expression Location</b>
Alpharetta	Located on the patio of the East entrance.
Clarkston	The Quad Area, in between Buildings A, B, C, & G.
Decatur	The Quad Area between Building A and Building C, in the vicinity of the Public Safety Office
Dunwoody	Between the NE-Building (classroom building), the LRC building (Library and LTC), and the NT-Building (Empty Trailer). It includes a large green space and is also near the paved smoking hut area. If there are logistical problems we can relocate those using the free expression space to another area, but only if the original free expression space is unusable for some reason.
Newton	Located on the South end of the lawn between buildings 1N & 2N adjacent to the sidewalk near the road.