

**Freedom of Expression...see full policy at: <http://campusactivities.nmsu.edu/policies/>**

**Contact Information: New Mexico State University Main Campus Las Cruces**

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Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to recognize, respect, and encourage the free exchange of ideas through written, spoken, and other forms of expression, including the right to peaceful assembly, as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the New Mexico Constitution. Furthermore, this policy clarifies application throughout the NMSU system by identifying the distinct types of forums, as well as to describe the reasonable restrictions, if any, which may be imposed in order to protect the university's teaching, research and service operations, and student activities from significant disruption and interference.

### **Policy 3.63, Part IV Procedural Guidelines: Respect for University Property and Functions**

A. Expressive activities in any type of public forum shall not:

1. Unreasonably obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic;
2. Restrict public access to the entrances or exits to buildings and facilities;
3. Permanently occupy land areas;
4. Unreasonably interfere with or disrupt classes, university academic or administrative operations, including scheduled events;
5. Cause damage to buildings, utilities, or landscaping;
6. Erect structures that are dangerous or cannot be easily dismantled and removed;
7. Cause injury or damage to persons or property;
8. Litter or stake on university premises contrary to Policy 3.63 and these guidelines;
9. **Affix materials to buildings or other structures without a permit** granted by the Department of Campus Activities.

### **Policy 3.63, E.9 – Policy Statements:**

**Dispute resolution:** The successful implementation of this policy will depend upon the university community's education and engagement, including but not limited to understanding which types of planned activities require advance permission, and what to do if an event or expressive activity is questioned. Because time will often be of the essence when issues arise involving this policy, the informal methods listed below are available to supervisors, students, employees and members of the public in order that individuals may seek a policy clarification or interpretation in advance, in order to resolve issues in a mutually professional and amicable manner, rather than through more adversarial grievance or litigation methods. These methods include and are not limited to:

A single point person will be designated by each NMSU campus president to serve as the liaison between members of the university community and/or the public and the Policy Administrators listed under Section C, in order to resolve issues expeditiously.

Individuals may request clarification of the policy or the Procedural Guidelines by contacting the designated point person. The designated point person will promptly respond to acknowledge the inquiry, and as appropriate or needed, may consult with any of the Policy Administrators prior to providing an interpretation to the individual.

If the individual(s) wishes to appeal the interpretation provided by the designated point person, such notification must be given to the point person either in writing or via email. The point person will then call a meeting of the Policy Administrators (or any subset, depending upon availability) and the individual(s) as soon as practicable, which meeting may be conducted telephonically or electronically. The decision of the Policy Administrators will be rendered within one working day of the meeting and communicated to the individual via email or other contact information supplied by the individual.

Students and employees also have recourse to file grievances against those who they feel may have restricted their rights under this policy, and shall follow the applicable student or employee grievance policy if the above steps have not resolved the dispute.