**University of Mary Washington**

**2022 Six-Year Plan Update**

**Freedom of Expression and Inquiry**

The University of Mary Washington celebrates the right to freedom of expression on our campus by members of the University community as well as individual outside of the UMW community who wish to address our community. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the vibrancy and vitality of UMW’s campus.

As a public, liberal arts university, the UMW community is dedicated to providing a diverse, accepting, and supportive environment that holds all of its members to the highest standards of conduct, scholarship, integrity, inclusiveness, respect, and engagement. Through a commitment to these values, we strive to transform our academic community into a place where all will learn, thrive, and grow. As a community, UMW is committed to upholding these common ***ASPIRE*** values:

***A***ccountability – we promote practices, behaviors, and attitudes where individuals to responsibility for their actions and decisions.

***S***cholarship – we promote intellectual inquiry by engaging ideas and one another in order to gain better understanding and contribute to knowledge.

***P***ersonal and Institutional Integrity – we are honorable in our academic and work endeavors as well as our interactions with others.

***I***nclusive Excellence – we strive for all members of the community to have equitable access to opportunities for participation and the resources necessary for success.

***R***espect and Civility – we foster an environment in which every individual is treated with dignity at all times by valuing the inherent worth of all identities, abilities, and differences.

***E***ngagement – we develop engaged members of our community who actively participate in the community through responsible leadership and service.

The University is committed to support the exercise of constitutionally-protected speech in all of its programs and facilities while maintaining a safe atmosphere free from major disruption. In keeping with and maintaining these freedoms, the University utilizes established policies and guidelines for the use of its facilities in order to preserve its mission and properties, to secure its operational objectives, and to safeguard the community.

UMW’s website includes links to the University’s policies regarding constitutionally-protected speech. These policies are included in this document on pages 3 – 7. In addition, the University’s website includes links to a number of resources that guide students, faculty and staff individuals for reporting an incident of disruption of constitutionally-protected speech or other expressive activities, including demonstrations, protests, marches, rallies, leaflet distribution or other activity involving the public display of expression by a group or multiple groups.

UMW also meets the responsibilities of § 23.1-401.1., Code of Virginia, which requires an annual report regarding the University’s policies on free speech and the communication of those policies to the appropriate employees and any complaints filed in court in the preceding year of any alleged violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The latest report and annual certification are included in these materials on pages 8 – 9.

UMW provides a number of opportunities each year to engage the campus in issues around diversity of though and freedom of expression. These include:

* The Student Government Association holds *Can We Talk* sessions, many of which arise to address controversial topics.
* The Center for Community Engagement has robust voter education and civic participation programming.
* The James Farmer Multicultural Center has program throughout the year as part of its Cultural Awareness Series whose focus is dialogue across differences.
* Student Activities and Engagement oversees annual student leadership training that includes respect and civility issues.

In addition, UMW is developing plans to host speakers on campus that will discuss our right to free speech. We will also offer training to faculty and staff that assists them in facilitating conversations where a diversity of perspectives is invited, listened to, and learned from.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| \* **POLICY NAME:** | **Expressive Activity By Members of University Community** |
| \* **POLICY TYPE:** | Presidential Policy - University Administrative Policy |
| **POLICY #:** | F.8.4. |
| **\*STATUS:** | Active |
| **\*CONTACT OFFICE:** | Student Affairs |
| **\*OVERSIGHT EXECUTIVE:** | Vice President for Student Affairs |
| **\*APPLIES TO:** | All members of the University community defined as students, faculty, and staff. |
| **\*PURPOSE:** | The University of Mary Washington supports the right of individual students, student organizations, faculty, and staff to dissent and to demonstrate providing such activities do not disrupt normal campus operations, obstruct free access to University buildings, or unreasonably infringe upon the rights of others. |
| **DEFINITIONS:** | "Expressive Activity" includes gatherings of one or more members of the University community for the purposes of publicly communicating a grievance or publicly stating a position or cause by spoken word, placard, or action.  For the purpose of implementation, expressive activity shall refer to all demonstrations, protests, marches, rallies, leaflet distribution or other activity involving the public display of expression by a group or multiple groups. |
| **\*POLICY STATEMENT:** | The University of Mary Washington celebrates the right to freedom of expression by members of the University community on our campus. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the vibrancy and vitality of a campus community. Diverse perspectives are honored and valued on campus, and it is essential that community members have the opportunity to engage in peaceful and orderly protests and demonstrations. This policy is structured to assure equal opportunity for expressive activity by all members of the University community, to preserve order within the University Community, to protect and preserve University property, and to provide a secure environment to individual members of the campus community exercising freedom of expression. |
| **PROCEDURES:** | All University property is intended primarily for use by students, faculty and staff in their efforts to advance the educational mission of the University. Consistent with that mission, most outdoor areas of campus represent a limited public forum for speech and other expressive activities by members of the University community. The indoor facilities on campus are typically dedicated to particular academic or administrative purposes and may be used for expressive activity only to the extent that such activity does not unreasonably interfere with the intended purpose of the facilities. All organizers are encouraged to provide advance notice to the University Police prior to commencement of an expressive activity in order to promote the safety and security of all individuals on campus. To be useful, advance  notification must include the day, time, and location where the demonstration or other expressive activity is expected to begin as well as the full name and detailed contact information for the primary organizer and/or person responsible for the activity.  Certain areas of campus are reservable by members of the campus community. If students, student organizations, faculty, or staff desire to reserve campus facilities to conduct expressive activities, they must submit their requests to the appropriate administrator with sufficient notice to allow for logistical support and to otherwise comply with the applicable facility use guidelines. |
| **\* General Procedures for Implementation:** | The University of Mary Washington does not permit expression that is unlawful or otherwise prohibited by law. Such expression includes, but is not limited to, defamation, incitement to unlawful conduct, imminent threats of actual violence or harm, obscenity, fighting words, copyright or trademark violation, criminal or civil harassment, sexual harassment, trespass, and false advertising.  In order that individuals and groups engaging in expressive activity not interfere with the operation of the University, state or federal law, or with the rights of others the following provisions shall apply:   1. Persons or their belongings may not block or otherwise unreasonably interfere with the free flow of vehicular, bicycle, or pedestrian traffic. The right of way on streets and sidewalks must be maintained. 2. Persons or their belongings may not block or otherwise unreasonably interfere with ingress and egress into and out of campus buildings. 3. Persons or their belongings shall not obstruct or attempt to force the cancellation of any event or activity sponsored by the University or by any users authorized to use University facilities. 4. Persons shall not engage in harassing, physically abusive, threatening, or intimidating conduct toward any person. 5. Persons shall comply with the directions of any University official acting in the performance of his or her duty. 6. Classes or other scheduled activities shall not be unreasonably disrupted. 7. Use of public address systems and amplified sound must be registered at least 72 hours in advance with the University Police. Use of such equipment may not unreasonably interfere with classes or other scheduled activities. 8. When an invited speaker is the object of protest, persons may demonstrate and/or distribute leaflets outside the building where the speech is taking place. Persons who wish to enter the building must do so as members of the audience, paying admission fees where   applicable, and must give the speaker a respectful hearing. Failure to grant the speaker a respectful hearing may result in the offending persons being asked to leave.  i. All applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations (including local ordinances regarding demonstrations on public streets), as well as all applicable University policies must be observed and followed. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| \* Process for Developing, Approving, and  Amending Procedures: | This policy will be reviewed bi-annually or sooner as directed by the University President. Proposed changes will be submitted through the Vice President for Student Affairs to the President for approval. Administrative procedures in support of the policy may be changed without the approval of the President. |
| \* Publication and Communication: | This policy is communicated via the public portion of the University’s policy website, on the Public Safety website, and via BoardDocs. |
| \* Compliance Monitoring and  Reporting: | Compliance will be monitored by the Vice President of Student Affairs. Any action required will be taken by the Chief of Police or designee in consult with the VP Student Affairs. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| \* **POLICY NAME:** | **REQUEST TO ADDRESS CAMPUS COMMUNITY** |
| \* **POLICY TYPE:** | Presidential Policy - University Administrative Policy |
| **POLICY #:** | C.1.1 |
| **\*STATUS:** | Active |
| **\*CONTACT OFFICE:** | Office of the President – University Events & Conferencing |
| **\*OVERSIGHT EXECUTIVE:** | Chief of Staff--Special Assistant to the President for University Events |
| **\*APPLIES TO:** | Non-University Individuals or Groups |
| **\*PURPOSE:** | To accommodate the occasional request by individuals from outside the UMW community who seek to address the campus community, so that persons who are not sponsored by a member of the campus community can be afforded a limited opportunity to speak publicly on campus. |
| **\*DEFINITIONS:** | Individual from outside the UMW community" shall mean anyone who is not a UMW student or faculty or staff member. |
| **\*POLICY STATEMENT:** | All University property is intended primarily for use by students, faculty and staff in their efforts to advance the educational mission of the University. This policy is structured to provide limited opportunities for individuals from outside the UMW community to address the campus community while preserving order within the University Community, protecting and preserving University and personal property, and providing a secure environment for all on campus. |
| **PROCEDURES:** | |
| \* General Procedures for Implementation: | Individuals from outside the UMW community who wish to address the campus community must provide three business days’ advance written notification to the Office of University Events and Conferencing. Advance notification is intended to  promote the efficient use of university facilities and resources as well as ensuring the safety of all event participants, including members of the campus community.  Advance notifications must include the date, time and preferred location of the proposed address as well as the full name and detailed contact information for the primary organizer. On the Fredericksburg campus, the designated areas in which individuals from outside the campus community can address the campus community are: the front of James Farmer Hall; Jefferson Square Lawn; the campus walk side of Jepson Hall, and Palmieri Plaza outside Monroe Hall. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | On the Stafford campus, the designated area in which individuals from outside the campus community can conduct expressive activities is the lawn area between the North and South buildings. The area designated for the Dahlgren Center is the entry plaza area as long as entry/egress is not impaired. The University Police will alert the primary organizer as soon as possible if the details provided in an advance notification indicate that interference with a planned activity or event is likely.  In order that individuals addressing the campus community not interfere with the operation of the University, or state or federal law or with the rights of others, the following provisions apply:  Expressive activities addressing the campus community must not obstruct in any way vehicular or pedestrian traffic or block ingress or egress to facilities whether outdoor or indoor. The right of way on streets and sidewalks must be maintained. Obstruction of public sidewalks and streets is a violation of Virginia criminal law (Va. Code§18.2-404).  Expressive activities must not unreasonably interfere with the educational or administrative functions inside or outside of buildings.  Individuals or their belongings shall not obstruct or attempt to force the cancellation of any event or activity sponsored by the University or by any users authorized to use University facilities.  All applicable local, state and federal laws and University policies must be observed and followed.  Individuals shall comply with the directions of any University official acting in the performance of his or her duty.  Use of sound amplification on campus must be registered with the Office of University Events & Conferencing three business days in advance. Use of sound amplification must not unreasonably interfere with the educational and administrative activities of the University.  The University does not permit expression that is unlawful or otherwise prohibited by law. Such expression includes, but is not limited to defamation, incitement to unlawful conduct, imminent threats of actual violence or harm, obscenity, fighting words, copyright or trademark infringement; criminal or civil harassment, sexual harassment, trespass and false advertising. |
| \* Process for Developing, Approving, and  Amending Procedures: | This policy will be reviewed annually. Proposed changes will be submitted through the Special Assistant to the President for University Events to the University President for approval. Administrative procedure in support of execution of this policy may be revised without approval of the President. |
| \* Publication and Communication: | This policy will be maintained on the University’s website and accessible via BoardDocs as well as on the Office of University Events & Conferencing web page. |
| \*Compliance Monitoring and Reporting: | Compliance will be monitored by the Chief of Staff. |



