

FOR COMMENT

Provided here are proposed revisions to the University's Guidelines on Open Expression for campus review and feedback. The process of how we arrived at this current draft was described in my March 25, 2026 message to the community ([Almanac, March 31, 2026](#)).

Penn faculty, staff, students, and post-docs are invited to provide their feedback through two channels:

- Online form: All Penn community members may submit anonymous feedback on an online Qualtrics survey, accessible by visiting this [link](#). The deadline for submissions is Monday, May 18, 2026.
- Community Listening Sessions: Two community listening sessions will be held to invite feedback, one virtual and one in person. Each session will be convened by Eric Feldman, Charles A. Heimbold Professor of International Law, Penn Carey Law, and immediate past chair of the Faculty Senate.

Below are the dates and times of each session. Registration information will be sent via an all-campus email notification on Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

- In-Person Session: 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at Perry World House
- Virtual Listening Session: 12:00 noon on Friday, April 24, 2026

Through the summer and early fall, my office will work with the Committee on Open Expression, Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs, and other campus stakeholders to review the feedback, identify key themes, and finalize a revised version of the Guidelines, which will be presented at the University Council meeting on September 9, 2026. President Jameson will then review the final draft recommendations and publish the final version of the revised Guidelines in Almanac.

—John L. Jackson, Jr., Provost

Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines on Open Expression

Principles of Open Expression

The University of Pennsylvania, as an academic institution, embraces its bedrock commitments to freedom of thought, inquiry, speech, and lawful assembly. The freedom to perform research; to present and examine arguments and data; the freedom to express, listen to, and discuss various views; and the freedom to voice criticism and to protest are fundamental to the mission of the University of Pennsylvania. These freedoms are designed to ensure that all members of our community can both contribute to, and benefit from, the open exchange of ideas necessary for a thriving academic environment, which supports the development of critical thinking, intellectual discovery, and the pursuit of knowledge for the advancement of society.

These Principles are intended to protect a broad scope of speech and to ensure the inclusion of all Penn community members in their protections. Speech and expression, for the purpose of these Principles, includes talking, writing, expressing views digitally or on signs, engaging in artistic expression, demonstrating, protesting, holding vigils, and other ways of making one's views known peacefully.

These Principles are explicitly addressed to forms of individual and collective expression by members of the University community.

While fostering the free exchange of ideas, the University must also be able to pursue its core missions—to teach, engage in research and scholarship, promote the arts and athletics, convene the community, and generally perform its everyday operations. This includes ensuring that Penn community members are protected from physical injury and that Penn facilities are protected from property damage. The safety and security of the Penn community remains a foundational commitment to all students, faculty, staff, and postdoctoral trainees, and the University will prioritize this commitment in all matters.

To preserve the principles of open expression, it is important to understand the norms of protected speech; norms that are designed to ensure that all members of the Penn community have the freedom to interact, share their ideas and listen to each other as supported by Penn policies and consistent with city, state, and federal laws.

These Principles cannot cover every possible instance of challenging speech, so their effectiveness depends on the goodwill and intentions of all Penn community members to listen to each other, to treat people with mutual respect, and to make a good faith effort to know and apply these Principles in the collaborative spirit in which they are written.¹

Applicability of These Principles

- I. Any member of the Penn community or Penn-affiliated organization wishing to schedule an event, such as a demonstration, protest, rally, or guest speaker on campus, must review these Principles and adhere to them.
- II. Any event, meeting, demonstration, protest, gathering, rally, or similar form of expression in a University location is governed by these Principles, regardless of how it is characterized or labeled, if the person(s) involved have the intent to express a point of view using

an organized expressive activity, or the event is reasonably likely to disrupt University functions.

- III. Whether communications occur on Locust Walk or in cyberspace, open expression remains equally valuable to the University and equally protected to the same extent, under the same Principles, and subject to the same limitations as non-digital forms of communication. Accordingly, these Principles apply to both in-person and online expression/conduct, particularly where Penn community members act or present themselves as Penn officials, community members, or representatives.
- IV. Members of the Penn community include faculty, students (including persons registered as students or who are on an unexpired official leave of absence), postdoctoral trainees, staff, and administrators of the University (including its constituent schools, research centers, and other subdivisions or affiliates).

Standards

- I. The University, through the President, the Provost, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (SEC), and the Committee on Open Expression, shall act to encourage and facilitate open expression within these Principles. Different expectations can apply to classrooms, where instructors set guidance within appropriate professional norms, and other gatherings and events that take place at the University. Those hosting expressive activities should review the Principles in advance to determine event sponsor requirements such as space reservations, permissible hours of use, sound restrictions, etc. The following standards apply to all Penn community members, regardless of viewpoint expressed.
- II. Individuals or groups violate these Principles if:
 - a. They interfere unreasonably with the regular activities of others, such as by impeding or blocking access to places of work, learning, socializing, living, or patient care, or by unreasonably disrupting the normal activity that takes place within the University.
 - b. They hold a demonstration or gathering in a clinical care facility, library, museum, private office or residence, or in any facility that normally contains valuable or sensitive materials, collections, equipment, or records protected by law or University policy.
 - c. They build or erect structures (including tents, encampments, or other temporary structures) without a permit or other permission from the Vice Provost for University Life or authorized University personnel.
 - d. They stay on or in University property regardless of space (indoor or outdoor) beyond permitted hours. Unauthorized overnight activities will be considered trespassing.
 - e. They negligently, recklessly, or intentionally cause physical injury or threaten such injury to any person or group.
 - f. They vandalize or damage University property; for example, by defacing buildings, walls, statues, or artwork, or their pres-

¹ These Principles integrate and supersede the previous Guidelines on Open Expression and the Temporary Standards and Procedures for Campus Events and Demonstrations (once enacted).

ence facilitates or obscures such damage. University statues and sculptures may not be climbed on or covered with any material.

- g. They use excessive levels of amplified sound that disrupts work and learning (as detailed under “Implementation of the Principles of Open Expression” herein), or use open flames, or otherwise fail to abide by the Principles, Penn facilities policies, and/or other Penn policies.
- h. They engage in speech or conduct that is threatening, harassing, severe, or pervasive such that it limits or denies a Penn community member’s ability to participate in or benefit from their education or work. Such speech or conduct will be considered more severe if it targets individuals or groups on the basis of a characteristic or class protected by the [University’s Equal Opportunity Policy and Nondiscrimination Statement](#), or federal, state, or local law, or other related Penn policies.
- i. They fail to present University identification and to identify themselves when asked by University representatives such as the Division of Public Safety, the Executive Director of Open Expression, Open Expression Observers, or other authorized University officials.

III. Interference with the Speech of Others

- a. Protecting open expression includes not interfering with the open expression of others, as well as protecting the rights of the speaker.
- b. Community members may protest speakers on campus with whom they disagree, but they may not do so in a way that prevents the speaker from expressing their views or prevents other members of the community from hearing or seeing the speaker. Groups are encouraged to request Open Expression Observers as appropriate.
- c. Individuals or groups may not suppress the speech of another individual—they may not have a “heckler’s veto” over speech with which they disagree.

Committee on Open Expression

- I. A Committee on Open Expression (COE) shall be comprised of Penn faculty, staff, and students. Given the broad representation of Penn community members who may serve on the COE, the Committee shall report jointly to the Provost and the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs.
- II. The charge, composition, and procedures for the COE are set forth in the “Implementation of the Principles of Open Expression” section.

Open Expression Observer Program

- I. To ensure that speech and expression align with the University’s commitment to safeguarding a free exchange of views by enabling Penn community members to interact freely, to share their ideas, and to listen to each other, the University shall maintain and support an Open Expression Observer Program.
- II. The Executive Director of Open Expression (EDOE) shall provide leadership to the Open Expression Observer Program.
- III. The core responsibilities of the EDOE and the composition and charge for the Open Expression Observer Program are set forth in the “Implementation of the Principles of Open Expression” section.

Implementation of the Principles of Open Expression

As the Principles make clear, the University is deeply committed to freedom of speech, open expression, and inquiry as fundamental to a thriving academic community. Time, place, and manner restrictions ensure that these principles are extended to all members of the Penn community while enabling the University to support its missions of scholarship, teaching, and research.

These guidelines outline administrative and operational policies and procedures. They are broadly organized into four sections:

- Section 1. Committee on Open Expression: Charge, Composition, and Procedures
- Section 2. Open Expression Observer Program
- Section 3. Open Expression Procedures and Referrals
- Section 4. Inviting Speakers to Campus

An Appendix titled *Campus Use Policies that Safeguard and Support Open Expression* is appended.

Section 1. Committee on Open Expression: Charge, Composition, and Procedures

- I. **Charge.** The COE shall have general oversight of matters involving open expression in accordance with these Principles. The COE shall provide advice to the Provost and the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs. The COE’s advisory responsibilities include:
 - a. Proposing revisions and interpretations of the Principles as requested by the Provost and/or the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs, or when the COE deems such revisions necessary, including issuing interpretative guidance to give more specific meaning to the Principles. The COE may also recommend to the Provost and SEC amendments or repeal of any of the Principles (see Section IV. Procedures).
 - b. Reviewing the Principles every 10 years, or as needed, and making recommendations to the Provost and the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs for any appropriate revision.
 - c. Reviewing reports from University offices and committees that engage with open expression issues to ensure that the Principles are written and applied as intended; and if not, making recommendations to the Provost and SEC for revisions or providing an interpretation of the existing Principles. Such reports will include data and additional details, as feasible while protecting privacy, relevant to open expression, including but not limited to: the number of cases related to open expression referred for disciplinary actions against students, faculty, or other members of the Penn community, and their disposition; and the activity of the Open Expression Observer Program.
 - d. Working with Schools, Centers, divisions and operational units as appropriate to support open expression, including the Provost’s Office.
 - e. Reviewing policies and procedures from University offices that relate to open expression such as signage, room/event registration, protests and demonstrations, and social media to ensure that University policies and procedures follow and integrate with these Principles; and if not, making recommendations to the Provost and the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs for appropriate revisions of such policies and procedures. Any policies or procedures mandated by or related to compliance with local, state, or federal law are not subject to this provision.
 - f. Offering advisory opinions, if requested by the COE Chair and University officials with jurisdiction over disciplinary cases, regarding referrals of cases and interpretations of the Principles as they may relate to these cases. Requests to the COE for advisory opinions, and any subsequent process, shall not unreasonably delay any disciplinary processes.
 - g. Submitting an annual report to the Provost and SEC (appropriately redacted for FERPA and other privacy concerns) on the status of the Committee’s work in the University’s journal of record.
 - h. At the conclusion of each academic year, the COE may review referrals and enforcement actions taken in accordance with these Principles and issue a public report (redacted for FERPA and other privacy considerations) outlining any recommendations to the Provost and SEC for changes to these Principles, to related University policies, or to best practices in the following year.
- II. **Composition.** The Committee on Open Expression consists of 13 members, constituted as follows:
 - a. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (SEC), through the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs, shall nominate seven faculty members for consideration by the Provost. The Provost may request alternate individual nominations. In considering alternate nominations, the Provost shall consult with SEC. Committee members will be invited to serve only after they have been recommended by SEC and approved by the Provost.
 - b. One professional staff member named by the Provost (after the Penn Professional Staff Assembly has offered the Provost advice and recommendations on such selection).
 - c. One weekly-paid staff member named by the Provost (after the Weekly-Paid Professional Staff Assembly, or equivalent organization, has offered the Provost advice and recommendations on such selection).

- d. Two undergraduate students and two graduate/professional students, named by the Provost (after the NEC and GAPSA, respectively, have offered the Provost advice/recommendations on such selections).
- e. In selecting members for the Committee on Open Expression, consideration should be given to a range of faculty, staff, and student membership, including a range of Schools represented, faculty rank, scholarship/research expertise, and University leadership and service.
- f. All members and proposed members of the Committee on Open Expression must be in good standing with the University.

III. Members of the Committee are appointed for the following terms:

The faculty representatives and the representatives of the Penn Professional Staff Assembly and Weekly-Paid Professional Staff Assembly are appointed to three-year terms. The terms shall be staggered so that they serve overlapping terms; accordingly, the initial terms of such representatives may be one or two years so as to enable such staggered terms.

- a. The undergraduate and graduate/professional student members are appointed to one-year terms.
- b. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by the appropriate nominating body set forth above, subject to approval by the Provost.
- c. The Chair of the Committee shall be a faculty member selected jointly by the Provost and the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs. The chair's term shall be three years.
- d. The COE shall have an Executive Director (Executive Director of Open Expression, or EDOE), who will serve as a non-voting *ex officio* member of the COE to support its functions, assemble data and reports, and manage the Open Expression Observer Program.

IV. Procedures

- a. The COE will report jointly to the Provost and the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs, and the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs will advise the Provost with respect to governance and performance of the COE.
- b. A simple majority of those present for a meeting is required for any interpretations or other recommendations, except for recommendations to amend or repeal the Principles, which require support from at least two-thirds of the full COE. If approved by the COE, any proposed amendment or repeal is to be forwarded to the Provost.
- c. Only the Provost, after consultation with the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs, Council of Deans, and the University President may approve any amendments to—or repeal of—the Principles.
- d. Seven members of the Committee on Open Expression shall constitute a quorum for any meeting.
- e. The Committee on Open Expression shall respect the privacy of individuals as its general policy and shall maintain the right to declare the confidentiality of its proceedings.

Section 2. Open Expression Observer Program

- I. The Open Expression Observer Program (OEOP) is an important component of supporting open expression on campus. Ideas and statements can be uncomfortable or even offensive to individuals and groups within the University community. The OEOP helps to ensure that speech and expression align with the University's commitment to support the free exchange of views by enabling community members to interact freely, to share their ideas, and to listen to each other.
- II. Executive Director of Open Expression (EDOE)
 - a. The EDOE manages the OEOP and is responsible for recruiting, training, and deploying Open Expression Observers; for making decisions about referrals; for reporting about the functioning of the program to the COE; and for providing educational opportunities about open expression to the Penn community in collaboration with other units within the University.
 - b. The EDOE will work with the Chair of the COE to help guide the vision and broad practice of the work of protecting these Principles through the OEOP, the COE, and other relevant offices.

- c. The EDOE will oversee the Open Expression Observer Program.
- d. The EDOE shall report to the Provost and have a dotted line report to the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs. In selecting and evaluating the performance of the EDOE, the Provost shall consult with the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs and the Chair of the COE. The EDOE will regularly brief the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs and upon their request.

III. Open Expression Observers (OEOs)

- a. Open Expression Observers (OEOs) are neutral parties who engage with meetings, events, or demonstrations when deemed necessary to support and maintain open expression. The EDOE or event organizers who are concerned about potential disruption may request OEOs attend meetings, events, or demonstrations.
- b. Penn faculty, staff, or administrators are appointed to this role and given appropriate protected time.
- c. Individuals shall be selected through an application process managed by the EDOE with the support of the COE Chair.
- d. OEOs will be trained in conflict resolution, de-escalation, and mediation, as well as in the Principles, before being assigned to any meeting, event, or demonstration.
- e. Members of the COE may not participate in the Open Expression Observer Program.

Section 3. Open Expression Procedures and Referrals

I. Open Expression Observer Program: Procedures

- a. OEOs are assigned to meetings, events, or demonstrations based on the likelihood of disruption as determined by the EDOE without regard to viewpoint.
- b. OEOs attend the meeting, event, or demonstration to which they are assigned, and aim to ensure that the Principles are followed by all. As needed, they shall inform, mediate, de-escalate, and in extenuating circumstances and if necessary to protect health, safety, or property, contact the Division of Public Safety (DPS) for assistance. DPS is charged with ensuring the safety of the Penn community. Actions by DPS that relate to open expression shall be reported to the COE as part of COE's review and advisory role.
- c. The EDOE or OEO shall identify themselves to those responsible for the meeting or event or to the leaders of a protest or demonstration, ideally through interaction, and at a minimum by wearing an identifying credential.
- d. Any OEO who attends a meeting, event, or demonstration shall respect the privacy of those involved. In particular, they shall not report the identity of any person attending, unless that person is considered to have violated the Principles, University policy, or applicable laws.
- e. The EDOE, OEO, or event organizers may request that DPS attend meetings, events, or demonstrations in University locations to help protect the open expression of those involved and to maintain public safety.
- f. The EDOE and OEOs serve to support the Principles of Open Expression and the University's commitment to freedom of thought, inquiry, speech, and lawful assembly. Threats or violence towards the EDOE or an OEO, as with any member of the Penn community, will be considered violations of the Principles.

II. Referring Violations

- a. OEOs shall refer potential violations of the Principles by any member of the University community to the EDOE. University community members may report potential violations as well.
- b. The enforcement of the Principles shall be consistent and without regard to viewpoint.
- c. When a violation is observed by an OEO and circumstances permit (e.g., where there is no imminent risk to health, safety, or property), the OEO should endeavor to issue a clear verbal or written warning and instruction to those involved. The instruction shall include notice that they are in violation of the

Principles; if the activity persists, those involved may be asked to disband or leave, particularly when the activity is deemed to disrupt University operations or create a threat. However, an instruction or warning by the OEO is not tantamount to a finding that a violation has occurred. Whenever possible, de-escalation and mediation are preferable to referrals for violation.

- d. Alleged violations of these Principles are reviewed with the EDOE to determine whether the case merits referral. The EDOE shall consult the Chair of the COE regarding any referral; but the final decision regarding referral rests with the EDOE. Other members of the Penn community may also make referrals or contact the relevant authorities on campus when they observe suspected violations. A referral is made as follows:

- i. Students are referred to the [Center for Community Standards and Accountability](#) (CSA) upon the filing of a complaint and preliminary review of the allegations. If a charge is pursued, CSA will follow the normal disciplinary/restorative justice process, as appropriate. In extraordinary circumstances, when a student's presence on campus is deemed by the University to be a threat to order, health, safety, or the conduct of the University's educational mission, the Provost (or designee), in consultation with the student's Dean or Associate Dean, may place the student on a mandatory temporary leave of absence or impose conditions upon the student's continued attendance, pending a hearing of disciplinary charges.
- ii. Staff are referred to the Division of Human Resources, which will follow University/School/Center staff disciplinary processes.
- iii. Faculty are referred to their School Dean or the Provost for further action, in accordance with *The Faculty Handbook*. The Dean or Provost may consult with the School's Committee on Academic Freedom for advice, but is not required to do so. If a charge is pursued, the Dean or Provost will follow the Procedure Governing Sanctions Taken Against Members of the Faculty in *The Faculty Handbook*.

- e. Individuals or groups who are deemed to be in violation of the Principles during a meeting, event, or demonstration and who complied with an OEO's instruction but disagree with that instruction or the applied interpretation of the Principles, may subsequently present a challenge to the validity of the OEO's finding to the relevant body listed above (*i.e.*, CSA, HR, the relevant dean, or other relevant authority). As part of the resulting review process, the relevant body listed above may (but is not required to) subsequently request an advisory opinion from the COE as to whether the Principles were properly interpreted and applied to the conduct in question. The COE will take up the request at the discretion of the COE Chair, in consultation with the EDOE. The COE may then issue its advisory opinion to the relevant body listed above, which will consider the opinion in its determination as to whether the conduct in question violated the Principles or any other Penn policy. The COE's advisory opinion shall not unreasonably delay any disciplinary process.

III. Consultation with the Committee on Open Expression

- a. The COE may, upon request from the Provost, draft and issue an advisory opinion with respect to any conduct or activity (past, present, or future) that relates to open expression generally or these Principles specifically.
- b. In cases referred by the Provost related to instructors, classes, departments, and schools, the Provost may consult with the COE prior to referral.
- c. In cases related to on-campus events and protests, a Penn policy (or its application) that limits usage of space, or other concerns related to the Principles, the EDOE will similarly have discretion to consult with and interview relevant persons.
- d. The COE may request information from the relevant individuals involved or from other Penn officials, review their involvement and policies, and (as part of its advisory opinion) issue recommendations to the Provost and Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs for future actions, such as revising policies and practices.

IV. The Division of Public Safety and Law Enforcement

- a. Law enforcement officers, including those employed by Penn, the City of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the federal government, are obligated to follow the law and legal processes to ensure the health and safety of the University campus and community. The Principles do not supersede that duty. If law enforcement determines that an activity jeopardizes the health and safety of the University campus or community or may violate local, state, or federal law, they may have a legal duty to intervene.

V. Enforcement

- a. Actions taken beyond making one's thoughts heard or read—particularly when such actions violate these Principles, Penn policy, or relevant law—do not constitute speech and expression protected by these Principles.
- b. Each member of the University community is expected to know and follow the Principles. Disrupting University operations is not permitted. This includes conduct that interferes unreasonably with the activities of other persons; causes injury to persons or property or threatens to cause such injury; holding meetings, events, or demonstrations under circumstances where health or safety is endangered; or knowingly interfering with unimpeded movement in a University location or with University operations.
- c. Given the open nature of Penn's campus, the Division of Public Safety (DPS) may ask for University identification in University locations. During events, meetings, or demonstrations, the Executive Director of Open Expression, Open Expression Observers, or other authorized University officials may also ask for University identification in University locations.
- d. Checking University identification for safety concerns ordinarily does not involve making a record of the information for purposes of future disciplinary actions. DPS, the Executive Director of Open Expression (EDO), or Open Expression Observers who request identification information for purposes of a possible disciplinary action must give notice of this intention to any University identification holders at the time of making such a request. Failure or refusal to produce University identification upon request is a violation of the Principles.
- e. The EDOE may also assist in offering advice during meetings, events, or demonstrations to requesting parties regarding the Principles if the EDOE is present during a situation that involves possible violations of the Principles.

Section 4. Inviting Speakers to Campus

- I. By allowing a specific speaker to speak or a group to organize and invite a speaker or hold an event, the University does not necessarily endorse that speaker's or event organizer's content or viewpoint; rather, it affirms the value of creating a robust marketplace of ideas and fostering reasoned debate, disagreement, and discourse.
- II. Most speakers at Penn are invited not by the University itself, but by particular organizations, departments, schools, and individuals at Penn. The Principles protect members of the entire University community against reprisal for hosting controversial speakers and events. Other members of the University community likewise may criticize a proposed speaker's or event's substance or viewpoint or even call upon the event organizer to cancel an event or rescind an invitation. But they may not go beyond criticism to express or imply a threat to an organization's or speaker's or event's safety, standing, affiliation with the University, or a threat of violence or similar unlawful conduct.
- III. The norm at the University, barring any concerns over budget, security, health, or safety, is to allow reservations of venues, provision of security, audiovisual, publicity, and other logistical support on a first-come, first-served basis and in accordance with the Principles and University policies. Any denial of a timely request for venue or related services/support may not be based on the substance or nature of the views expressed.
- IV. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Division of Public Safety (DPS) may recommend or require that an event take place in a particular (larger or smaller) University venue, be protected by additional se-

curity, and/or take place at a later date in order to allow more time to plan appropriately for the safety of the community, including the speaker.

- V. Any invitations to political candidates or events featuring or promoting political candidates or parties (without regard to political party or viewpoints) are subject to additional requirements due to the University's tax-exempt status.

Appendix: Campus Use Policies that Safeguard and Support Open Expression

This appendix serves as a resource and summary of existing University policies that reinforce and reaffirm Penn's commitment to open expression and, at the same time, ensure that campus meetings, events, demonstrations, and other forms of open expression are appropriately balanced with other needs, rights, and expectations of the campus community.

These policies exist so that all members of the Penn community have equal opportunity to pursue learning, teaching, research, patient care, and service while enjoying full access to the many University resources available for academic excellence. Designated University offices and divisions are responsible for the administration of policies.

The Committee on Open Expression is charged with reviewing pertinent policies and procedures from University offices that relate to open expression (e.g., signage, room/event registration, protests and demonstrations, and social media oversight). This ensures that University policies and procedures adhere to the Principles on Open Expression. The Committee will also make recommendations to the Provost and Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs for revisions of such policies and procedures where they might diverge from the Principles.

I. Scheduling Events

- a. The facilities of the University of Pennsylvania, both indoor and outdoor, exist for the primary purpose of University-related education, research, and patient care. Priority for the use of facilities is given first to those academic and patient care activities and then to programs of University-recognized groups.
- b. Events are presumed to be private, that is, limited to members of the Penn community, unless specifically stated otherwise.
- c. The procedure for scheduling events varies for different venues. Organizers should research and determine the process necessary for their venues of choice.
- d. University Life Space and Events Management manages space reservation for many University locations and may serve as a resource for event organizers who are seeking to reserve space.
- e. All non-academic events requiring the use of Perelman Quad, performing arts facilities, Blanche Levy Park (including the area known as the "Button"), Locust Walk, other University Life Spaces, or Central Pool classrooms must be registered with University Life Space and Events Management. While in most cases applications for use of these spaces must be made with designated University Life Staff seven business days in advance, some events may call for more immediate attention. In such cases, special requests for shorter notice will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and every effort will be made to support open expression without regard to viewpoint or content. In general, no event requiring a security assessment from the Division of Public Safety (in accordance with Section g below) will be granted on an expedited timeline.
- f. Scheduling of spaces within specific School or Center facilities is administered by the School or Center. Use of these particular spaces may be supplemented by University policies. In all circumstances, the Principles shall guide the University.
- g. University Life Space and Events Management or the specific School or Center—in consultation with the Division of Public Safety—may determine that certain events require a security assessment from the Division of Public Safety. In these instances, the event may result in the implementation of additional safety/security measures. The [Special Event Security Request Form](#) must be used to request event security provided by Penn's Division of Public Safety.
- h. Events must occur during the stated business hours in each University location. For spaces managed by University Life Space and Events Management, requests for events to occur

or extend outside of stated business hours must be approved in advance by the Vice Provost for University Life or designee. For spaces managed by Schools or Centers, these requests must be directed to the appropriate official in the School or Center. The Division of Public Safety and other University officials may also be consulted when reviewing such requests.

- i. The University reserves the right to require a delay or relocation of any event, despite prior approval, should additional information emerge that raises logistical or potential safety concerns.
- j. Resource information: [Pennbook/Use of Facilities](#) or contact the Vice Provost for University Life Space and Events Management or School or Center Building Administrators (for School or Center specific questions).

II. Access to Penn Spaces and Event Contracting

- a. Schools, departments, centers, institutes, and all faculty, students, postdoctoral trainees, and staff are expected to uphold the Principles when coordinating and hosting events that may involve non-Penn affiliates or organizations. Penn community members may not serve as "individual fronts" or "proxies" for non-Penn affiliated organizations that may solicit them in order to gain access to or use of Penn venues to organize or host an event on their behalf.
- b. Any representation of sponsorship or support by University departments, centers, institutes, or similar organizations must receive prior written approval from the relevant chair or director to ensure that all protocols for approval are followed.
- c. The use of standardized templates in contracting for space is preferred. If the templates are not used, or there are meaningful deviations, the organizers must consult the Office of General Counsel to determine what is permissible.
- d. No student may sign a contract on behalf of the University. All contracts or agreements for lectures, performing arts activities, programs, conferences, services, or other events sponsored by student organizations must be reviewed by the relevant School/Center before being shared with the Purchasing Department for signing.
- e. Any contract for an event must be reviewed and executed by an authorized Penn representative.
- f. Resource information: [Pennbook/Contracts](#), or contact the Vice Provost for University Life Space and Events Management or School or Center Building Administrators (for School or Center specific questions).

III. Amplified Sound

- a. On weekdays when classes are in session, amplified sound (including, but not limited to bullhorns, musical instruments, and amplified speakers) is only permitted on College Green, Blanche Levy Park, or Penn Commons between the hours of 5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Requests for amplified sound on College Green, Blanche Levy Park, or Penn Commons outside of 5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. on weekdays must be submitted for approval during the space reservation process.
- b. Regardless of time of day, amplified sound is not permitted on College Green, Blanche Levy Park, or Penn Commons during scheduled University events (e.g., Convocation), Final Exams, and Reading Days.
- c. Amplified sound or live music on Locust Walk (West of 36th Street) is permitted only between 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. on weekdays when classes are in session. At all times any noise must be kept at a level that does not disrupt classes in session or faculty, staff, and administrators working in surrounding buildings.
- d. If noise resulting from an event in an outdoor space interferes or conflicts with library, office, and classroom activities, the continued use of that outdoor space may be denied.
- e. Resource information: [Pennbook/Use of Facilities](#); [University Life/Noise Pollution Restrictions](#); [Pennbook/Vending Policy](#), or contact Vice Provost for University Life Space and Events Management or School or Center Building Administrators (for School or Center specific questions).

FOR COMMENT

IV. *Posters, Signs, Banners, and Chalking*

- a. The [University Campus-Wide Exterior and Interior Signage Policy](#) details information for displaying temporary signage, including chalking. The following are modifications to the Campus-Wide Exterior and Interior Signage Policy:
 - i. Light projections may not be displayed on any University building or structure without seeking express written permission from the Vice Provost for University Life or the relevant Dean's Office (for a School or Center-specific building).
 - ii. The [University Poster Policy](#) outlines policies for posting notices in outdoor areas, indoor areas, on Locust Walk and in residential areas.
 - iii. To protect open expression, signs posted in compliance with the Principles will not be removed, and it is a violation of the Principles if an unauthorized individual removes them or posts over them.
 - iv. Non-compliant signage, including posters, banners, and chalking, will be removed immediately.
 - v. School guidelines for posters and banners may supplement University policies.
- b. Resource information: [University Campus-Wide Exterior and Interior Signage Policy](#); [University Poster Policy](#); Pennbook/Vending Policy, or contact the Vice Provost for University Life, School or Center Building Administrators (for School or Center-specific questions), Facilities and Real Estate Services, or the Office of College Houses and Academic Services.

V. *Use of Social Media*

- a. Community members have the right to use social media to express themselves. However, this right is also circumscribed by principles of respect, University policy, and local, state, or federal law.
- b. Online harassment or the doxing of students, faculty or staff is counter to Penn's commitment to creating an inclusive community that upholds the University's fundamental values of academic freedom, open expression, and productive exchange of perspectives and ideals.
- c. To the extent that Penn organizations or community members can be identified as perpetrators of such online harassment or doxing, the University may take action as appropriate.

- d. Resource information: [Guidelines for the Use of Social Media; Online Harassment](#)

VI. *Livestreaming, Filming, and Media Access*

- a. For spaces managed by University Life Space and Events Management: Livestreaming an event requires approval by the Vice Provost for University Life (VPUL). For spaces managed by Schools or Centers, requests for livestreaming an event must follow the School or Center's policies and protocols. University Communications and the Division of Public Safety may also be consulted when reviewing any requests. The VPUL (or designee) and Schools and Centers shall consult with the Executive Director of Open Expression prior to making a determination.
- b. News media are required to produce credentials when requested by University Communications and access may be limited, especially during demonstrations, to allow the Division of Public Safety to maintain campus safety.
- c. Resource information: Contact University Life Space and Events Management or University Communications.

VII. *Use of University Name*

- a. Penn regulates use of its name, including University of Pennsylvania, Penn, the names of its Schools and programs, its shield and related insignia, trademarks, and logos ("insignia") to ensure that such use is related to the University's educational, service and research missions and promotes its objectives.
- b. Resource information: [Pennbook/Use of University Name Policy](#).

VIII. *Non-University Persons*

- a. The University reserves the right to request University identification from participants engaged in events and demonstrations on campus for the sole purpose of determining whether an individual is affiliated with Penn.
- b. Non-University persons who participate in meetings, events, or demonstrations in a University location are required to comply with the Principles and any additional instructions from other University officials, including the Division of Public Safety, the Executive Director of Open Expression, Open Expression Observers, and the Vice Provost for University Life (or delegates). Non-University affiliated persons have less expansive rights than those who are members of the Penn community.
- c. Resource information: Identification Card Policy No: 204 or contact the Division of Public Safety.