

February 1, 2024

As a public institution of higher education, Brooklyn College upholds the rights of free speech and peaceful assembly. The College is committed to fostering intellectual freedom and the free exchange of ideas, as these commitments are central to an academic agenda. The role of the College is not to shield constituents from viewpoints with which they disagree. Instead, the College seeks always to increase knowledge and to enhance understanding and compassion across our differences.

At the same time, the College has a responsibility to protect the safety of everyone on campus and to prevent discrimination, harassment, and disruptions to the College's academic operations.

With this in mind, we are resharing:

- Brooklyn College's **Policy on Freedom of Speech and Campus Demonstrations**:
  - "Brooklyn College supports the right of students, faculty, and staff to peaceably demonstrate, provided they do not disrupt the normal educational operation of the campus."
- CUNY's **Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order** (the "Henderson Rules"), which prohibit community members from:
  - Interfering with the institution's educational processes and facilities, or
  - Interfering with the rights of others who wish to avail themselves of the college's instructional, personal, administrative, recreational, and community services.

In accord with these policies, the College may need to set reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on activities on campus. For example, a campus public safety officer may request that a loud demonstration reduce its volume or move to a different location to prevent the disruption of nearby classes. Individuals or groups who refuse to comply with such a request, in violation of the Henderson Rules or the Policy on Freedom of Speech and Campus Demonstrations, may be subject to discipline.

The College also protects freedom of speech in print, with reasonable restrictions on place. In 2001, the Campus Beautification Project introduced **guidelines for posting**, which prohibit printed materials from being affixed to office doors, walls, or other surfaces, directing those postings instead to area bulletin boards. These guidelines were developed to preserve the integrity of the surfaces of our walls, doors, and stairwells;

reduce the burden on custodial staff; and contribute to the overall visual beauty of the campus. While the implementation of these posting guidelines waned over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, now that we have returned fully to in-person operations, implementation will resume. The pandemic did increase the need to ensure that students have access to information that will help them navigate the campus and contact relevant offices. Therefore, we added a bullet to the posting guidelines to clarify that they do not apply to signage that aids in such navigation, including the name of the office, its room number, hours of operation, and contact information, which all offices should display. The policy also excludes instructional materials for a specific class, materials advertising an approved upcoming event, or signage required by law. Under this policy, staff and faculty should remove all other printed materials from their office doors or relocate them to an appropriate bulletin board by **Friday, February 9, 2024**.

Some community members have expressed an interest in changing or updating these posting guidelines. As a result, the Brooklyn College Policy Council will consider adding this issue to its agenda this semester.

If you have a question about your rights and responsibilities under the Henderson Rules, the Policy on Freedom of Speech and Campus Demonstrations, or the Campus Beautification Project, please contact the Office of Student Affairs at (718) 951-5352 or the Office of Legal Affairs at (718) 951-3118.