

PROCEDURE:

4.3.2p5. Public Demonstrations

Revised: March 16, 2022

Last Reviewed: November 28, 2018; February 19, 2020; February 17, 2021; March 16, 2022

Adopted: February 21, 2018

I. PURPOSE

The Ogeechee Technical College (OTC) community is committed to free speech, self-expression, and social consciousness. OTC also embraces diversity, and acknowledges that not all members of the College community will agree on all issues or areas of concern. The very nature of diversity acknowledges multiple viewpoints, opinions, cultures, and traditions.

At times, individuals or groups who are part of the College community may choose to outwardly express their views on current, relevant topics. When this expression involves a public demonstration or gathering, and/or distribution of materials in any form, permission must be requested from the College administration prior to dissemination of any information so that the College may ensure that it is able to fulfill its educational mission. Through such regulation the College can assure equal opportunity for all persons, preserve order within the College community, protect College property, and provide a secure environment to individuals exercising freedom of expression. Nothing in this procedure permits the College to regulate the content of expressive activity protected by the First Amendment. The College maintains a position of neutrality as to the content of expressions and any written materials distributed on campus under this procedure.

II. RELATED AUTHORITY

TCSG Procedure 4.3.2p4. Standards of Business Conduct

TCSG Procedure 4.3.2p5. Political Activities and Election Campaigns

TCSG Procedure 6.7.2p2. Model Student Conduct Codes

III. APPLICABILITY

This procedure applies to all Ogeechee Technical College staff, students, and visitors.

IV. DEFINITIONS

None.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Request for Public Demonstration Form

VI. PROCEDURE

Any member of the College community that engages in expressive activity at a campus location must submit a request for reservation of that location in writing to the office of

the Vice President for College Advancement no less than three business days prior to the date of the requested event or activity. The request form is an addendum to these guidelines. Reservation requests will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. The request for reservation may be denied for reasons unrelated to the content of the expressive activity including, but not limited to, attracting a crowd larger than the requested location can safely contain; significantly disrupting College activities inside or outside of buildings (including classes); significantly disrupting previously scheduled campus events; obstructing entrances or exits to buildings; obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic; and representing a threat to public safety.

A designated “public expression area” is defined below, and any activity related to the demonstration or gathering must be confined to the designated area. Public expression areas include:

- The Joseph E. Kennedy Building auditorium
- The open lawn area between the Health Science North Building and Health Science South Building (referred to as ‘The Quad’)
- The pavilion adjacent to the College pond

Pamphlets, handbills, circulars, newspapers, magazines and other written materials may be distributed on a person-to-person basis in the designated public expression areas. The grounds, buildings, and thoroughfares of the College are subject to the parameters of these guidelines.

Members of the general public, who are not part of the College community, should adhere to the College’s policy for visitors, that is, they must check in at the reception desk, must secure a parking pass (if they arrive by vehicle), and must obtain and wear a visitor pass while on campus. Guests are expected and required to behave in accordance with College policies and applicable state and local laws and ordinances.

Distribution or presentation of political information and campaign materials is prohibited except in the public expression areas listed above. Political signs, placards, leaflets, flyers, or other material may not be posted on the campus. Employees of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) and the College are subject to TCSG’s Political Activities and Election Campaigns Procedure 4.3.2p5.

In the case of a political forum or debate, all candidates from a race must be invited, and no less than two candidates from each race may participate, for the event to occur. Opportunities for candidates to speak on campus and to use campus facilities must be offered and granted fairly and without bias. Individuals currently serving in a Federal, State, or local political office may present information related to their office using facilities designated as public expression areas or in accordance with facility rental procedures, as long as there is no fundraising associated with the event.

The College reserves the right to revoke the authorization for any gathering, demonstration, or distribution of materials when it is deemed in the best interest for the

safety and security of the College and its employees, students, and the general public as noted above.

VII. RECORD RETENTION

Documents relating to requests for public demonstrations will be maintained by the Office of College Advancement.