



Keiser University, Flagship Campus- Public Assembly on Campus Grounds Policy

Policy Goal

The goal of the Public Assembly on Campus Grounds Policy is to allow public speech, assemblies, rallies, marches, events, gatherings, and/or counter protests (“Assemblies”) while maintaining a safe and secure campus that is conducive to academic work and freedom, to preservation of the dignity of University and to respect the rights of all individuals.

Policy objectives

The objectives of the Campus Demonstration policy are:

1. Define the parameters of a Campus Demonstrations
2. Clarify the demonstration process of approval
3. Define expectations from the demonstration organizers.
4. Provide the campus community a clear set of regulations and restrictions governing Campus Demonstrations.

University Statement

Keiser University, The Flagship Campus is committed to an environment where the open expression of ideas and mutual respect are valued and encouraged. As a community of scholars, The Flagship Campus upholds the freedoms of speech, assembly and protest. This Policy reaffirms the commitment to a community that inspires, develops and grows through assemblies of open expression while acknowledging and valuing the right of others to a difference of opinion and thought.

A. General Provisions

1. The Flagship campus supports the rights of student organizations, individual students, faculty, staff, and other members of the community to assemble to express their views on issues of the day, including the right to demonstrate in a peaceful manner, provided their activities do not disrupt normal activities or infringe upon the rights of others. The use of the Flagship Campus property for these purposes does not imply acceptance or endorsement by the Flagship Campus or the University of the views expressed.

2. This Flagship Campus Policy sets out rules in order to protect the rights of those involved in the demonstration, others in the Flagship Campus community, and the Flagship Campus itself from unreasonable disruption.

3. For purposes of this Policy, disruption is defined as “activity which substantially interferes with the rights of others or with Flagship Campus operations,” including activity which:

- a. Denies or infringes upon the rights of students, staff, visitors or other members of the Flagship Campus community.
- b. Interferes with instruction, research, administration, other Flagship Campus services, or other activities of the campus community.
- c. Restricts or obstructs the free movement of individuals on the campus or in campus buildings; including streets on or near campus.
- d. Impedes or denies the use of offices, classrooms or other Flagship Campus facilities to students, staff, visitors, or other members of the campus community.
- e. Endangers or threatens the safety of any member of the Flagship Campus community, including by the use of force or violence.
- f. Damages, defaces or causes the loss of property.
- g. Violates the law or university policies.

4. The following regulations apply to all demonstrations, rallies, and similar assemblies:

- a. All demonstrations must get registered by Keiser University Flagship Campus for approval.
- b. Approval forms must be completed no later than two (2) weeks prior to planned event.
- c. Persons may not use campus buildings for demonstrations or rallies and may not block or otherwise interfere with the free flow of vehicular, bicycle, or

pedestrian traffic on or near campus. The right of way on streets and sidewalks must be maintained.

d. Persons may not block or otherwise interfere with ingress to or egress from campus buildings or streets.

e. Persons shall not obstruct, disrupt, interrupt or attempt to force the cancellation of any event or activity sponsored by the Flagship Campus or by any users authorized to use Flagship Campus facilities.

f. Persons shall not engage in harassing, physically abusive, threatening or intimidating conduct toward any person.

g. Persons shall comply with the directions of a Flagship Campus official acting in the performance of his/her official duty.

h. Classes or other scheduled activities shall not be disrupted.

i. Use of public address systems and amplified sound will not be permitted without prior approval from the Flagship Campus.

j. When an invited speaker is the subject of protest, persons may demonstrate outside the building where the speech is taking place. Persons who wish to enter the building must do so as members of the audience and must give the speaker a respectful hearing. Failure to grant the speaker a respectful hearing may result in the offending person being asked to leave. Signs, placards or similar paraphernalia associated with a demonstration may not be carried into the building.

k. The safety and well-being of members of the Flagship Campus community collectively and individually must be protected at all times.

l. Flagship Campus property must be protected at all times.

m. Persons on Flagship Campus property may be required to provide identification to a university official upon request.

n. Persons engaging in activities on Flagship Campus property, including non-university participants in demonstrations, are subject to and expected to comply with all applicable Flagship Campus and University policies and procedures.

5. Student organizations sponsoring or organizing demonstrations, rallies, or equivalent activities will be held responsible to comply with this Policy. Student organization sponsorship of a demonstration does not relieve participating individuals of responsibility for their conduct. Each participant in a demonstration or equivalent activity, whether sponsored or not, is accountable for compliance with the provisions of this Policy as well as (in the case of students) the Student Code of Conduct and regular class participation. Violations of this Policy may be grounds for disciplinary action against individuals and/or the sponsoring or participating student organization and its officers.

6. If non-compliance with this Policy also involves violations of State or Federal law, the university may pursue prosecution of chargeable offenses against violators, and/or recovery of money damages from them for any harm to or loss or destruction of University property resulting from the misconduct.

B. Scheduled Demonstrations

1. Registered student organizations, full- or part-time students and employees of the University who wish to schedule a demonstration, rally or similar activity, must request approval from the campus president at least two (2) weeks in advance of the activity. The request will be submitted on a “Free Speech and Public Assembly registration form”.

C. University Procedures for Responding to Disruptive Demonstrations

Campus Leadership will determine whether a demonstration has become disruptive based on the criteria set out in Part A. Sections 1 – 6 of this Policy. If circumstances permit, Campus Leadership will:

- a. Identify him \ herself to the demonstrators, giving name and official position.
- b. Inform the demonstrators that they are in violation of University policy or in violation of the law and specify the nature of the violation.
- c. Request the demonstrators to cease disruptive activities, explaining which activities violate this Policy.
- d. In the event of noncompliance with this request, take appropriate action and if needed, enlist the assistance of police to restore order and enforce the law.
- e. Violations of this Policy may also be grounds for disciplinary action against individuals and/or the sponsoring or participating student organization and its officers.

D. University course of action

- a. Upon receiving an approved “Free Speech and Public Assembly registration form” the Campus Leadership will notify any or all of the following:
 - I. Chancellor
 - II. Executive Vice Chancellor/COO
 - III. Head of Media Relations
 - IV. Legal Counsel
 - V. Crisis Management
- b. The Campus President will conduct a CRT meeting with additional campus personnel as deemed necessary. In the meeting:
 - I. An CRT Incident Commander will be assigned to the event
 - II. The CRT will review the Protest and Demonstration registration form and conduct a risk assessment based on the information provided.

- III. The Incident Commander with the CRT will determine:
 - 1) Number of CRT members needed for event.
 - 2) Number of G4S Security officers needed for event
 - 3) If needed, number of external safety and security personnel including EMT's, police, etc.
 - 4) If needed, Command post location, personnel and resources

- C. The Incident commander will fill in an organizational "Event Safety and Security plan" and submit it to the Crisis Management Department for review and distribution.

- D. Twenty-four hours (24) prior to the demonstration the incident commander will confirm with the Dean of Students of any approved changes to the Public Assembly registration form. If any changes were made the Incident Commander will update the CRT and OOC and reevaluate personnel allocation to the Event.

- E. Thirty minutes (30) prior to the demonstration the Incident commander will position the security and safety personnel. Positioning of personnel will be done to minimally effect the event while maintaining a commanding view of the event.

- F. After the demonstration the Incident Commander will complete an Incident Report and submit it to the Crisis Management \ Safety and Security Department

- G. Contingency plans and considerations:
 - I. Depending on the location of the demonstration at the Flagship campus, the Incident Commander will have a limited to a non-existent buffer (Distance and time) to implement mitigation measures for rapid escalation. The Incident Commander and the Flagship Campus management need to plan and prepare contingencies and resources for the possibility of diminishing circumstances with limited response times.
 - I. The campus management and the Incident Commander should consider assigning a campus cameraman for the purpose of documenting violators and violations of the Student Code of Conduct.
 - II. The Incident Commander will follow National Incident Command System (NIMS) principles to address possible contingencies.
 - III. The incident commander will follow the policy to address any deviation from the original plans.
 - IV. Time permitting, calling additional police during a demonstration will be done with the knowledge the Campus President and \ or Vice President or his \ her designee.

- V. The incident Commander will remain in constant contact with campus security and will utilize the security officers and their resources for any developing emergency (medical, fire, injury, etc.).
- VI. The OOC Crisis Management \ Safety and Security will be available to address any safety and security questions and needs.
- VII. The media team via the mass notification system will remain available to support the campus as needed.

H. Unannounced demonstration-

- I. The first CRT member who becomes aware of an unannounced demonstration becomes the Incident Commander.
- II. The Incident Commander will alert security and the CRT.
- III. OOC will be notified. The Crisis Management \ Safety and Security department will alert the Media team, G4S and additional entities as needed.
- IV. The Incident Commander, together with the Campus President and \ Or the Campus Vice President will decide if and when Paragraph C (University Procedures for Responding to Disruptive Demonstrations) of the policy will be implemented.

I. Two countering Demonstrations-

- I. Simultaneous demonstrations, registered or not, should be considered by the campus management and the Incident Commander as an elevated risk event.
- II. During the CRT meeting the CRT will review the need for physical barriers and other separating measures between demonstrations.
- III. Any safety and Security measure used for one demonstration will be used for the other demonstration.
- IV. The risk assessment process will elevate the presumed risk level and enhance mitigating measures