



UNIVERSITY RESPONSE GUIDELINES

PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

The University of Wisconsin – Madison strongly values free speech both in the statement of an idea and in the response to that idea. This document provides general guidance regarding the university’s approach to enforcing the policies governing picketing, rallies, parades, demonstrations and other assemblies (including protests). UWS 18.11 (4) outlines the limitations on such assemblies including hindering entrance, exit and passage, limiting signs with sticks or standards, noise, employing force, declaring a gathering unlawful and the response to such actions. Students in violation of UWS 18.11 (4) are subject to disciplinary action through UWS 17.09 (14). The full provisions of UWS Chapter 17 including possible disciplinary sanctions can be reviewed at:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/uws/17.pdf

The university’s commitment to free speech, teaching, research and safety will dictate its response to protests and demonstrations. Protests and demonstrations that do not diminish the university’s ability to maintain these core values are a natural part of a vibrant campus community. As a general rule, such protests and demonstrations will be facilitated by the appropriate campus stakeholders taking into consideration venue/location, scope, impact on campus resources, university policies and campus safety concerns.

Successful facilitation of protests and demonstrations safely provides for the expression of first amendment rights as outlined by UWS 18.11 (4) and do not at the same time infringe or prevent any other individual’s first amendment rights. Protests and demonstrations that impede the values stated above or that involve actions that disrupt the academic mission, threaten research, interfere with free speech or threaten campus/personal safety will prompt a coordinated response that works to ensure accordance with UWS 18.11 (4), to uphold our commitment to free speech, and to equally and objectively facilitate free speech expressions regardless of content. While voluntary compliance with these guidelines is our primary objective, university response to protests and demonstrations that fall outside the scope of these stated guidelines may employ a range of measures up to and including arrest and or conduct action.

Division of Student Life

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