

Student Demonstrations: Internal Guidelines and Expectations

While vigorous discussion and the sharing of ideas is vital to any college campus, it is particularly important to Queens University of Charlotte. We are proud of our tradition in supporting free speech, diversity, inclusion, and civility. We have long believed our campus is open to the “marketplace of ideas”, and those ideas can be expressed in a civil and respectful manner, consistent with the values espoused in our Honor Code. We are also proud of our diversity and our commitment to our students.

To this, the Vice President of Student Engagement, in collaboration with Campus Police, has developed guidelines for demonstration and protest activities to ensure everyone’s safety. For the purposes of this document, a demonstration is defined as, “An organized gathering of individuals to express objection, disapproval, or dissent.” Should students wish to organize a demonstration on campus they are asked to abide by the guidelines described below (also found online at www.queens.edu/studenthandbook). Please keep in mind, this process is for demonstrations involving only university community members. If you wish to include people outside the Queens community you must obtain a different form and follow a different process through Campus Police.

1. Students must complete a demonstration application form 48 hours prior to an event. These forms can be obtained from Student Life and must be returned to the Vice President of Student Engagement. All such requests will be acted upon promptly. Please plan ahead as the more lead time you give us the better we can act to ensure student safety.
2. Demonstrators must not obstruct, or seriously impair, university events or activities occurring at the same time.
3. All entrances and hallway access points must remain open at all times. Traffic must be able to flow in and out of buildings and on roadways.
4. Threats of violence and the throwing of objects will not be tolerated.
5. Students may have signs and banners but the signs and banners may not be supported by sticks or standards as they could be used to harm others.
6. No masks or disguises hiding a person’s face may be worn at any time. We must be able to identify participants as members of the university community.
7. While we expect students to raise their voices and make noise we also expect you will not interfere with classroom instruction or other activities taking place on campus.
8. No sound amplification may be used without prior permission. If you plan to use sound amplification please request such on the application form. Sound amplification will be permitted if we are certain it will not interfere with other activities and meets community standards and laws regarding noise volume.
9. While we support the right of our students to express themselves, we also respect the rights of all students to be free from a hostile and intimidating environment. Expressions that go beyond what most will consider reasonable and civil are not welcome on campus. Thus, signs or expressions that are overtly racist, homophobic, sexist, anti-semitic, Islamophobic or of a related nature that targets certain groups are not permitted.

The Vice President of Student Engagement and Campus Police reserve the right to deny any demonstration it deems will be detrimental to the welfare of our students and unduly interfere with the educational process. It also reserves the right to shut down a protest that does not abide by the guidelines outlined above. The Vice President of Student Engagement, in collaboration with Campus Police, reserves the right to charge any individual student with a violation of the Honor Code should their behavior before, during, or after the event warrant such action.

Internal Student Demonstration Application

This application form is to be completed at least **48 hours prior to an event**. The Vice President of Student Engagement and Campus Police will respond promptly to all request. This form is for internal demonstrations only. If you plan to invite, or expect, anyone outside the university community you must contact Campus Police directly and follow their application process.

Today's Date: _____

Date of Event: _____

Time of Event: _____

Location & Name of Event: _____

Name of Group or Registered Student Organization: _____

Student Coordinator: _____

Cell Number: _____

Faculty/Staff Advisor: _____

Office Number: _____

Additional Representatives: 1. _____

Phone: _____

2. _____

Phone: _____

Purpose of Demonstration: _____

Number of People Expected: _____

Do you plan to use amplification? Yes / No

Internal use only by the Vice President of Student Engagement and Campus Police

Today's Date: _____

Event Approved: Yes / No

Comments:

Signatures:

María del Carmen Flores-Mills, J.D.
Vice President of Student Engagement & Dean of Students

Lesia Finney
Chief of Police