

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY POLICY ON POLITICAL AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Political Speakers

The university encourages students and faculty alike to have the opportunity to hear speakers of national renown of various ideologies. This even-handed policy of exposing all major political points of view will be continued. (See Guest Speakers.)

Guest Speakers

The university affirms open inquiry and free discussion as necessary provisions for students' freedom to learn. Recognized student organizations are therefore free within the bounds of the law, good order, and the university's procedural requirements to invite and hear speakers of their own choosing.

With this freedom goes the responsibility to prepare adequately for the event so that it is conducted in a manner appropriate to the academic community. Thus, there should be an opportunity for questions and statements of opposing views and a recognition that any speaker who is a guest of the university is entitled to a courteous hearing, regardless of his or her position. The sponsors have the responsibility to maintain good order; when good order

cannot reasonably be assured an event may be postponed or canceled.

Finally, it shall be made clear to the academic and larger community that sponsorship of guest speakers does not necessarily imply approval or endorsement of the views expressed, either by the sponsoring group or by the university.

The procedures are simple:

(1) notify the Dean of Students Office by submitting the event via LINC at least two weeks in advance. Events that may require additional approvals or security should be submitted at least four weeks in advance. These events may require the student organization to meet with the Campus Engagement Advisory Group (CEAG) for approval.

(2) make room reservation by requesting the desired space on 25live.

(3) release off-campus publicity through the Office of Media Relations at 610-758-4487

Under normal circumstances, the university expects that speakers invited by student organizations are being brought for the academic community, which is defined to include students and faculty of neighboring colleges. The opening of meetings to the general public involves considerations beyond academic freedom and therefore requires approval through the President's office.

Application for such approval should be made through the Dean of

Students Office. Please contact the Director of Student Involvement for additional information at inose@lehigh.edu; these events may require the student organization to meet with the Campus Engagement nAdvisory Group (CEAG) for approval.