

Students' Rights and Responsibilities (cont.)

been violated. Oberlin College, in its traditions and as an academic institution, is devoted to free and open inquiry. Therefore, it is important that freedom of speech and freedom of expression be guaranteed to individuals and groups to express whatever views they wish, so long as they do not interfere with the rights of others. The General Faculty therefore calls upon all members of the college community to join in the assertion of this tradition of academic and civic freedom and to continue to foster a climate in which it is cherished.

C. General Posting Policy

Approved by General Faculty in April 2003.

Advertisements are an important means of communication among the members of the Oberlin College community. Compliance with this posting policy will ensure that advertisements are not removed and that individuals and groups take responsibility for their words. This policy applies to Oberlin College community members, whether as individuals or as members of college departments, offices, or organizations. Those not affiliated with Oberlin College do not automatically have the right to use college spaces for the display of posters or flyers. The posting of notices on campus does not necessarily represent endorsement or sponsorship by the college.

The Office of Safety and Security, representatives of the student life staff, the Grounds Department, or designated building representatives will remove postings that are in violation of the following regulations. Postings on undedicated (i.e., nondepartmental, nonorganizational) bulletin boards that comply with the following regulations must not be removed until a reasonable amount of time has elapsed, nor should they be defaced.

1. POSTING REGULATIONS

a. Posted materials must be in compliance with the posting regulations of Oberlin College listed below as well as general Oberlin policies. Please remember to be courteous to others' posting privileges.

- (1) Posters that compromise the safety of others (for example, obscuring windows and doors) are not permitted.
- (2) Posting on emergency phones/equipment, or on vehicles in parking lots, is prohibited.
- (3) All informational materials intended for public viewing must have the sponsoring department, student organization, college committee or individual name clearly displayed. This includes: flyers, posters, table tents, etc. In accordance with the Student Bill of Rights, "members of the college are expected to take responsibility for their expressions; anonymous expressions are inimical to the free and open exchange of ideas."
- (4) Except for posters/flyers placed on identified departmental, office or organizational bulletin

boards, those posters/flyers from entities outside the college must bear the clearly labeled sponsorship of a college office, department, organization, or individual.

(5) Individuals must be aware of the potential consequences—for themselves and for others—of advertising events that violate college policy or state and local laws. [Examples include the serving of alcohol to minors and cash bars.]

(6) Guidelines have been developed regarding responsible alcohol service. The guidelines include guidance for responsibly publicizing events where alcohol will be served. Students planning events in college housing must be acquainted with the relevant language in the policy or residence hall party planning. The policy is available in the Office of Residential Education.

(7) Some campus buildings (such as Mudd Center and Wilder Hall) have more restrictive regulations on postings. Contact the administrator in charge of each building for specific guidelines.

(8) Bulletin boards dedicated to a specific department or organization may be used only with their permission. Departments and organizations should consider using a stamp or similar device to indicate approval or endorsement of posted material.

(9) Chalking is permitted on concrete outdoor sidewalks only. Chalking is not permitted on any vertical surfaces, buildings, walls, or on any surfaces that are bricked or tiled. Areas of sidewalks that are on a porch or under an overhang should not be used for chalking. Only water-soluble chalk may be used to ensure that removal will be done naturally by weather and wear. Although individuals are encouraged to take responsibility for their statements, chalking need not conform to posting regulation (see paragraph 3 above).

(10) These policies apply to college property only; students and others are reminded that different policies apply on other Oberlin city property.

2. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

a. All members of the Oberlin College community are urged to abide by the following guidelines in order to ensure that information is most effectively transmitted:

- (1) Do not post printed materials advertising events earlier than two weeks prior to the event.
- (2) Do not advertise for events until the venue for the event is confirmed.

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(3) All sponsors need to be mindful that the college is open to members of the Oberlin town community. Members of the college community should consider the placement and timing of posters and their effect on workplace environments and town residents (including children) whose values may be different from their own.

(4) Do not attach posters to surfaces (such as painted surfaces, wood, or glass) that may be damaged by tape, glue, staples, tacks, etc.

(5) Remove posters when the advertised event is over, or after they have been posted for two weeks.

(6) To help ensure that posters remain in place for two weeks, they should bear the date on which they are first posted.

(7) Members of the college community should be mindful of the fact that taping flyers to sidewalks creates significant additional work for college workers and compromises the environment.

b. Bulletin Boards

Individuals are encouraged to use bulletin boards in a responsible manner. Although individuals and organizations are responsible for making their own decisions about the use of posters and flyers, they should consider the following:

(1) The use of designated public bulletin boards is strongly encouraged.

(2) Pushpins or staples should be used on bulletin boards. To avoid possible puncture of wheelchair/bicycle tires, please do not use thumbtacks or staple guns. Masking tape and/or sticky-tack putty are preferred types of adhesives. Duct, gaffers, packing, or scotch tape should not be used. (These materials are very difficult to remove and cause damage to surfaces.)

(3) No more than one posting for the same event or issue should be placed on a single bulletin board. Avoid posting on top of other material.

3. ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ADVERTISING (SAVE PAPER)

a. Newspaper ads.

b. Painting a rock in Tappan Square (etiquette suggests that you don't paint over an event that has not yet occurred).

c. Radio (WOBC and other local stations).

d. Outside banner on Wilder porch (must be scheduled in Student Union Office).

e. Inside banner (primarily Wilder lobby).

f. Press Releases (campus and off-campus publications).

g. Information tables in Wilder Bowl (must be scheduled in Student Union Office).

h. Electronic events calendar, Oberlin Online.

D. Faculty Statement on Social and Political Unrest

The following statement was adopted by the General Faculty on February 27, 1968, and remains in effect.

The form and nature of protests and other social and political actions should not obstruct other persons in the exercise of their rights as members or guests of the academic community or in the conduct of their business in a normal manner. Acts of social and political protest must not disrupt the essential operations of the college and should not violate standards of civility and respect important to the achievement of the college's educational purposes.

Because definitions of the limits of acceptable actions cannot be free of ambiguity, and because clarity about the limits and about the penalties that may be incurred for violation of the limits is desirable, the following procedures are established:

1. A person or persons sponsoring a demonstration or similar action may obtain an advisory opinion from the Office of the Dean of Students as to the permissibility of the planned action and as to the possible penalties which the Office of the Dean of Students might impose or recommend if an impermissible action is carried out. If the Office of the Dean of Students rules that a planned action is not permissible, an effort to compromise should be made, in cooperation with the Student Life Committee.

2. If an action is carried out that has been ruled impermissible in accordance with paragraph 1. above, or that has become disruptive in the judgment of the Office of the Dean of Students, the said Office of the Dean of Students, or appropriate representative, will warn the participating students to desist, inform them of the possible consequences of refusal to desist, and allow the participants a reasonable amount of time to desist. The same procedure will be followed when the advice of the Office of the Dean of Students has not been sought.

E. Faculty Statement of Policy on Student Demonstrations

The following statement was adopted by the General Faculty on December 17, 1991.

1. FREEDOM OF SPEECH AT OBERLIN/ AFFIRMATION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

On May 20, 1986, the General Faculty adopted a resolution on freedom of speech and expression that remains in effect today. It urges aggrieved persons or