

Background:

On January 28, 2019, Steering received a request from the HSS Chairs Council, to initiate a review of the *Use of Campus Property Policy* in accordance with applicable governance policy and procedures as well as expressing their concerns that the locations designated as public use areas may interfere with the educational mission of the College. The HSS Chairs Council asked that the policy be reviewed with specific attention to how public use of campus property impacts students in their daily activities (e.g. in walking to and from classes or studying in college buildings or utilizing residential facilities).

The existing policy had been in place since passed by the Board of Trustees in April 2012. General Counsel recently reviewed the policy as of April 2018 and provided non-substantive edits to the “related documents” section. Additionally, the Policy was reviewed again and approved by the Board of Trustees in July 2020 with changes from this recommendation as well as requirements per state and federal regulations.

Charge:

On March 6, 2019, Steering asks CSCC to read and provide comments on the [Use of Campus Property Policy](#) and related documents. In this review, CSCC should consider the questions raised by the HSS Chairs Council which specifically focus on 1) how campus property may be used and by whom, and 2) the definition and designation of public use areas. CSCC should seek input from, Faculty Senate, the Council of Deans, Academic Leaders, Student Affairs, Campus Police, Facilities & Administrative Services, and Student Government, as well as other individuals and offices deemed appropriate by CSCC. CSCC should raise all concerns or questions brought out through these discussions with the General Counsel. After working with the General Counsel on edits or changes to the policy, CSCC should then seek testimony on the preliminary recommendation. In communicating its final recommendation to Steering, CSCC should make explicit the process used in the review of this policy and from whom testimony was gathered.

Testimony was gathered from the following groups during the 2019-2020 academic year:

- Faculty Senate
- Academic Leaders
- Council of Deans

- Campus Police
- Council of Deans
- Student Government
- General Counsel
- Office of Development & Alumni Affairs

The recommendations by CSCC reflect areas of concern that were gathered during testimony.

- We recommend reviewing the campus map; specifically determining if the public use space near Eickhoff Hall can be reduced to be mindful of the residential community that can be impacted by high decibel level and congestion.
- Review the “related documents” and determine if the timeline that is outlined (2 weeks) for notice of outside use is realistic. We recommend a timeline of a few days (48 hours) in accordance with what a public college must do under federal law.
- Review and clarify the public use spaces in relation to recognized student organizations and/or College departments and offices. There was concern shared during foras that recognized groups had more regulations and restrictions to follow in order to use campus space than did unrecognized and/or outside entities.
- In accordance with the approval of the updated policy, we recommend providing training sessions for the campus community on free speech and the application of this policy in accordance with federal laws.
- We recommend working with Academic and Student Affairs to minimize disruptions and provide support services to affected students and faculty.

We encourage the policy owner to review the information and feedback provided above and determine whether it can be incorporated into the current policy and procedures documents.