

**RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES (THE “BOARD”)
OF THE TRUSTEES OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

**ADOPTING THE “CHICAGO PRINCIPLES” AND REFORMING CERTAIN POLICIES
TO REAFFIRM A COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

WHEREAS, Purdue University (“Purdue” or the “University”) has historically embraced a commitment to freedom of expression in policy; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, America’s colleges and universities on frequent occasions have abdicated their responsibility to uphold free speech principles, and these failures make it appropriate for Purdue to restate and reaffirm its own commitment in this regard;

WHEREAS, the Purdue Student Government and the Purdue Graduate Student Government Senates, in their combined capacity to represent the entire student body of Purdue University’s West Lafayette campus, have adopted Joint Resolution 14-01, which called upon the University to revise certain of its policy statements that do not fully reflect the University’s commitment to freedom of expression; and

WHEREAS, the Board strongly agrees with the joint statement and recommendations of the combined Purdue Student Government Senates and commends them for their leadership on this fundamental issue; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, the Committee on Freedom of Expression at the University of Chicago—an institution long known for its commitment to the ideals of free and open inquiry, academic freedom and fair debate—released a statement on the importance of freedom of expression on campus; and

WHEREAS, the Board views the Committee’s statement (the “Chicago Principles”) as an inspiring articulation of the critical importance of freedom of expression in higher education and believes it captures the essence of Purdue’s own commitment to ensuring “free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberation” on its own campuses; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interests of Purdue, as the State of Indiana’s land-grant university, to adopt a version of the Chicago Principles as its own official policy statement on matters related to freedom of expression; and

WHEREAS, the Board has broad statutory authority to make all bylaws, rules and regulations required or proper to conduct and manage Purdue University:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

1. The Statement on Commitment to Freedom of Expression attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby approved and adopted as the official policy of Purdue University.
2. The modifications to (a) the Regulations Governing Student Conduct, Disciplinary Proceedings and Appeals, (b) the Bill of Student Rights, (c) the Office of the Dean of Students Guidelines for Speech and Expression on Campus, (d) the University Residences

Guidelines for Bulletin Boards, and (e) the Policy on Violent Behavior (IV.A.3), which are reflected in the attached Exhibits B-1 through B-5, respectively, are hereby formally adopted and approved.

3. The Board hereby authorizes, empowers and instructs the President and the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and their respective designees, to take such actions as are necessary and appropriate to implement and communicate the foregoing policy actions to the University community.
4. The Board hereby authorizes, empowers and instructs the President, the Vice President for Ethics and Compliance, and the Legal Counsel to work with the administration of Purdue University Calumet, Purdue North Central and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne to take such actions as are necessary and appropriate to modify any campus-specific policies as necessary to fully reflect these principles.

Exhibit A**Purdue University
Commitment to Freedom of Expression**

Because Purdue University (the “University”) is committed to free and open inquiry in all matters, it guarantees all members of the University community the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn. Except insofar as limitations on that freedom are necessary to the functioning of the University, the University fully respects and supports the freedom of all members of the University community “to discuss,” in the words of former University of Chicago President Robert M. Hutchins, “any problem that presents itself.”

Of course, the ideas of different members of the University community will often and quite naturally conflict. But it is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Although the University greatly values civility, and although all members of the University community share in the responsibility for maintaining a climate of mutual respect, concerns about civility and mutual respect can never be used as a justification for closing off discussion of ideas, however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of our community.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not, of course, mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. The University may restrict expression, for example, that violates the law, that falsely defames a specific individual, that constitutes a genuine threat or harassment, that unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests, or that is otherwise directly incompatible with the functioning of the University. In addition, the University may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt the ordinary activities of the University. But these are narrow exceptions to the general principle of freedom of expression, and it is vitally important that these exceptions never be used in a manner that is inconsistent with the University’s commitment to a completely free and open discussion of ideas.

In a word, the University’s fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed. It is for the individual members of the University community, not for the University as an institution, to make those judgments for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose. Indeed, fostering the ability of members of the University community to engage in such debate and deliberation in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the University’s educational mission.

As a corollary to the University’s commitment to protect and promote free expression, members of the University community must also act in conformity with the principle of free expression. Although members of the University community are free to criticize and contest the views expressed on campus, and to criticize and contest speakers who are invited to express their views on campus, they may not obstruct or otherwise interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe. To this end, the University has a solemn responsibility not only to promote a lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation, but also to protect that freedom when others attempt to restrict it.

Exhibit B-1

**Modified Language in University Regulations: Regulations Governing Student Conduct,
Disciplinary Proceedings, and Appeals**

“Conduct Subject to Disciplinary Sanctions. The following actions constitute conduct for which students may be subject to informal action or disciplinary sanctions:

- i. Disorderly conduct or lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct ~~or expression~~ on University property or in connection with a University activity.”

Exhibit B-2**Modified Language in University Regulations: Bill of Student Rights**

“Purdue University recognizes that in the community of scholars there are certain indisputable rights to freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, and freedom of expression. The University encourages the search for truth and knowledge and does not abridge searchers’ rights to reveal their findings, by both spoken and written word, even if in so doing they might find themselves at variance with their peers as well as the lay community. To dissent, to disagree with generally accepted truth and knowledge, is acceptable, and in many ways is essential to free debate and inquiry. Accordingly, [t]he student shall be free to discuss and express any view relevant to subject matter presented by the instructor or other class members. However, in exercising this freedom, the student shall not interfere with the academic process of the class by speaking to or behaving towards others in a ~~hostile, demeaning, or intimidating~~ manner constituting unwelcome, targeted conduct that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive, and that so undermines and detracts from the educational experience of those to whom the speech or behavior is targeted, that the targeted person is effectively denied equal access to the University’s resources and opportunities.”

Exhibit B-3**Modified Language in Office of Dean of Students
Guidelines for Speech and Expression on Campus**

~~“The area south of the flagpole on Purdue Memorial Mall has been designated as a public forum due to it being a highly visible area, easily accessible, and the place least likely to disrupt or obstruct University activities and functions. . . . Students or student organizations who wish to sponsor demonstrations and rallies may do so as long as they do not materially disrupt or interrupt the regular and essential operation of the University, interfere with the rights of others, or destroy property. A routine registration of the event through the Office of the Dean of Students will help insure that there is an orderly scheduling of facilities, adequate preparation for the event, and an occasion that is conducted in a manner appropriate to the University community. The registration of the event is requested in order to avoid the problem of competition for space. This process serves as a means to facilitate the coexistence of students’ rights to speak and the rights of others to access academic programs and scheduled functions of the University. Since the south end of Memorial Mall is the expected area for demonstrations and rallies, if more than one event is planned for the same area, the one that is properly registered and scheduled first will have priority.”~~

“To facilitate robust debate and the free exchange of ideas, the University has designated the areas on campus described below for peaceable assembly and the expression of ideas and opinions. These areas may be used for expressive activity by individuals and groups, including non-students and other campus guests. In addition to their high visibility and easy accessibility, these areas have been identified as places where demonstrations and other expressive activities are least likely to disrupt University activities and functions. Each of these areas may be used without permission from the University so long as the area has not been previously reserved or scheduled for a particular function, the expressive activity does not disrupt or obstruct University functions, and the participants do not violate other University policies. The designated areas include the following malls and all public spaces contiguous thereto:

- (a) Memorial Mall,
- (b) Stadium Mall,
- (c) Purdue Mall, and
- (d) Centennial Mall.

Although it is not necessary for a person using one of these areas to obtain prior permission from the University, the University encourages such persons to contact the _____ in order to reserve or schedule the desired location in advance so as to minimize possible conflicts. Priority is given for use of specific locations by groups who register their assemblies with the University.

Nothing in the foregoing shall be interpreted as limiting the right of student expression elsewhere on the campus so long as the expressive activity or related student conduct does not disrupt University activities and functions or violate any other applicable University policies. Obstructing building entrances, walkways, and rights-of-way; obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic on or adjacent to campus; or interfering with classes, meetings, events or ceremonies or with other essential processes of the University will generally be considered to be disruptive of University activities and functions.”

Exhibit B-4

Modified Language in University Residences Guidelines: Bulletin Boards

~~“Each residence has bulletin boards containing important information. The management and/or residence publicity officers must approve all notices and posters. Unauthorized publicity will be removed. Signs, flyers, etc. may not be affixed to building surfaces, windows, woodwork, or furnishings without proper approval. Signs or displays containing profane, lewd, or indecent expressions will be removed.”~~

“Each residence has bulletin boards containing important information. The advertisements, posters, flyers, notices, signs, or banners posted thereon should adhere to all University policies and state, local and federal laws. Promoting the use of alcohol and/or illegal substances is prohibited. The posted item may not include any reference to or support of blatant violations of the Regulations Governing Student Conduct, other University policies, or federal, state, or local law. The Office of University Residences reserves the right to reject any posting that is inconsistent with this policy.”

Exhibit B-5

Modified Language in Violent Behavior Policy (IV.A.3)

~~“Threat: An expression of intent to cause physical or mental harm or damage to property. A threat may be direct, indirect, conditional or veiled. Any threat is presumed to constitute a statement of intent. An expression constitutes a threat without regard to whether the party communicating the threat has the present ability to carry it out and without regard to whether the expression is contingent or future.”~~

“Threat: A serious expression of intent to commit an act of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals or to cause damage to another person’s property, or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health and safety of another person or another person’s property.”