



POLICY TITLE
Uniform Policy on Campus Free Speech

POLICY NUMBER
3-003

Responsible Unit: <i>Office of Communications</i>	Effective Date: <i>9/21/2018</i>
Responsible Official: <i>Vice President for External Affairs</i>	Last Reviewed Date: <i>N/A</i>
Policy Classification: <i>External Affairs and Public Relations Policies</i>	Origination Date: <i>09/10/2018</i>

I. POLICY STATEMENT AND RATIONALE

The Southern University Board of Supervisors (SUBOS) and Southern University and A&M College System (SU) deems the free and open inquiry into all matters fundamental to the mission of higher education and is committed to the preservation of the lawful, free expression of ideas at all public postsecondary education institutions in the state, subject only to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions. All postsecondary institutions under the management and control of the Southern University Board of Supervisors (SUBOS) and Southern University and A&M College System (SU) shall allow and protect expressive activities by students, administrators, faculty members, staff members and invited guests in accordance with all applicable laws and this Policy.

II. POLICY SCOPE AND AUDIENCE

In accordance with Act 666 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, codified at R.S. 17:3399.31 through 3399.37 (“Louisiana Campus Free Expression Law”), the Southern University Board of Supervisors (SUBOS) and Southern University and A&M College System (SU) hereby adopts this policy on Campus Free Expression (“Policy”).

This Policy was developed in collaboration with the Louisiana Board of Regents (BoR) and applies to all postsecondary education institutions under the management and control of the Southern University Board of Supervisors (SUBOS) and Southern University and A&M College System (SU). All institutions subject to this Policy shall adopt an institutional policy in accordance with all applicable laws and this Policy. Each institution’s policy must comply with applicable laws and regulations, and must be amended to reflect any subsequent changes to laws and regulations. Each institution (or a management board for each of its member institutions) shall begin establishing policies and procedures in full compliance with this Policy no later than the beginning of AY 2018-19. The institutional policy of each of member institution shall be forwarded to the Southern University Board of Supervisors (SUBOS) and Southern University and A&M College System (SU) and BoR by September 15, 2018.

For purposes of this Policy, the definitions of key terms and other mandatory provisions shall remain consistent with those in Act 666 of 2018, codified at R.S. 17:3399.31 through 3399.37. the Southern University Board of Supervisors (SUBOS) and Southern University and A&M College System (SU) will amend this Policy to reflect any subsequent changes to these statutes. In cases of any inconsistency, the statutory provisions shall supersede any such inconsistent provision in this Policy. The statutory provisions and this Policy shall supersede any inconsistent provision in an institution’s policy.

III. POLICY COMPLIANCE

Each institution’s policy must comply with applicable laws and regulations, and must be amended to reflect any changes to such laws and regulations. Each institutions’ policy must contain, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) A statement that each institution shall strive to ensure the fullest degree of intellectual freedom and free expression.
- (2) A statement that it is not the proper role of an institution to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana, and other applicable laws, including without limitation ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive.
- (3) A provision that students and faculty have the freedom to discuss any topic that presents itself, as provided under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana

and other applicable laws permit and within the limits on time, place, and manner of expression that are consistent with this Part and that are necessary to achieve a significant institutional interest; such restrictions shall be published and provide ample alternative means of expression.

- (4) A provision that students and faculty may assemble and engage in spontaneous expressive activity as long as such activity is not unlawful and does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution, subject to the requirements of this Part.
- (5) A provision that any person lawfully present on a campus may protest or demonstrate there. Protests and demonstrations that infringe upon the constitutional rights of others to engage in or listen to expressive activity by creating a substantial and material disruption to the functioning of the institution or to someone's expressive activity shall not be permitted.
- (6) A provision that the public areas of campuses of each institution are traditional public forums that are open on the same terms to any speaker.
- (7) A provision that the policy supersedes and nullifies any provision in the policies and regulations of any institution that restricts speech on campus and that any such provision is therefore inconsistent with this policy on free expression. Each institution shall remove or revise any such provision in its policies and regulations to ensure compatibility with this policy on free expression. Failure to adhere to the policy may result in actions under the appropriate Handbook for faculty, staff and students.

IV. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

The Office of External Affairs in conjunction with the Offices of Academic and Student Affairs will be charged with implementing this policy.

VI. POLICY RELATED INFORMATION

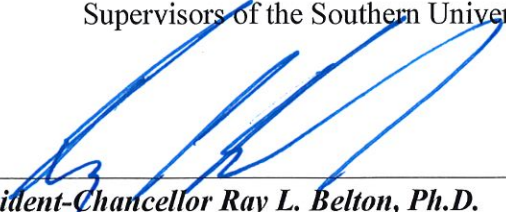
Failure to comply with any applicable laws and regulations, including those listed above, shall constitute a failure to comply with this Policy. Each member institution shall make all due diligence efforts to comply with applicable laws and regulations, including those listed above. While the provisions of the laws listed above are mandatory components of the institutional policy, institutions may supplement the provisions of this Policy as necessary, but any such supplemental provision shall comply with the laws and this Policy.

VII. POLICY HISTORY AND REVIEW CYCLE

This is a newly created policy. This policy is subject to a five-year policy review cycle.

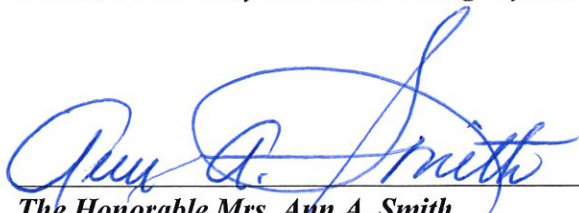
IX. POLICY APPROVAL

The effective date of this policy is determined by the approval date of the President-Chancellor of the Southern University and A&M College System and the Board of Supervisors of the Southern University and A&M College System.



President-Chancellor Ray L. Belton, Ph.D.
Southern University and A&M College System

Effective Date of Policy



The Honorable Mrs. Ann A. Smith
Chair – Southern University System Board of Supervisors

Effective Date of Policy