

**Tennessee Technological University**  
**Policy No. 007**



Effective Date: January 1, 2018

**Policy No.:** 007

**Policy Name:** Free Speech on Campus

### **I. Purpose**

Vj g'r wtr qug'qh'vj ku'r qrk { 'ku'vq'chkt o 'vj g'r tkpek rgu'qh'ht gg'ur ggej "qp"Vgppguugg'Vgej øl" campus.

### **II. Review**

This policy will be reviewed every four years or whenever circumstances require review, whichever is earlier, by the University Counsel with recommendations for revision presented to the Board of Trustees.

### **III. Definitions**

øEqpukwkwkpcn'vko g.'r mæg'cpf "o cpgt'tgutkvwkpuöô restrictions on the time, place, and manner of free speech that do not violate the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 19 of the Tennessee Constitution that are reasonable, content- and viewpoint-neutral, narrowly tailored to satisfy a significant institutional interest, and leave open ample alternative channels for the communication of the information or message of its intended audience.

øHcewm{ ö"qt "øHcewm{ 'O go dgtöô any person, whether or not the person is compensated by Tennessee Tech, and regardless of political affiliation, who is tasked with providing scholarship, academic research or teaching. Hqt'vj g'r wtr qugu'qh'vj ku'r qrk { . "øhcewm{ ö'kpenmf gu'vgrwgf "cpf " non-tenured professors, adjunct professors, visiting professors, lecturers, graduate student instructors and those in comparable positions, however titled. For the purposes of this policy, øhcewm{ ö'f qgu'pqv'kpenmf g'r gtuppu'y j qug'r tko ct { "tgr qpukdkkkgu"ctg'cf o kpkvtckxg"qt" managerial.

øHgg'Ur ggej öô speech, expression, or assemblies protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 19 of the Tennessee Constitution, verbal or written, including but not limited to, all forms of peaceful assembly, protests, demonstrations, rallies, vigils, marches, public speaking, distribution of printed materials, carrying signs, f kur r { u.'qt'ektewr vpi 'r gkkkpu0"øHgg'ur ggej ö'f qgu'pqv'kpenmf g'vj g'r tqo qvqp."ucrg."qt" distribution of any product or service.

øUwf gpvöô

An individual currently enrolled in a course of study at Tennessee Tech; and

An organization that is comprised entirely of individuals currently enrolled in a course of study at Tennessee Tech and is registered with Tennessee Tech pursuant to TTU Policy 315 (Student Organizations).

#### **IV. Policy**

Tennessee Tech affirms that Students have a fundamental right to Free Speech.

Tennessee Tech is committed to giving Students the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, learn, and discuss any issue, subject to limitations set forth in this policy or in state or federal law.

Tennessee Tech is committed to maintaining a campus as a marketplace of ideas for all Students and all Faculty in which the free exchange of ideas is not to be suppressed because the ideas put forth are offensive, unwise, immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical, or wrong-headed.

Students and Faculty are allowed to make judgments about ideas for themselves and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress Free Speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas they oppose.

Students and Faculty are not to be punished for expressing their views on ideas that they find offensive, unwise, immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical, or wrong-headed.

Although Tennessee Tech greatly values civility and mutual respect, Tennessee Tech will not use concerns about civility and mutual respect as justification for closing off the discussion of ideas, however offensive, unwise, immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical, or wrong-



immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical, or wrong-headed by Students, Faculty, administrators, government officials, or members of the public.

#### **V. Effect of Policy**

Nothing in this policy shall require Tennessee Tech to fund costs associated with student speech or expression.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as prohibiting Tennessee Tech from imposing measures that do not violate the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 19 of the Tennessee Constitution such as:

Constitutional time, place, and manner restrictions;

Reasonable and viewpoint-neutral restrictions in nonpublic forums;

Protecting the free speech rights of Students and Faculty and preserve the uses of the property for the advancement of the University;

Prohibiting or limiting speech, expression, or assemblies that are not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 19 of the Tennessee Constitution; or

Content restrictions on speech that are reasonably related to a legitimate pedagogical purpose, such as rules enacted by Faculty.

#### **VI. Implementation**

The Board delegates authority to the President to revise or implement policies and procedures consistent with the policy.

#### **VII. Interpretation**

The Board Chair or his/her designee has the final authority to interpret the terms of this policy.

#### **VIII. Citation of Authority for Policy**

T.C.A. § 49-7-2401 et seq.

**Approved by:**

Board of Trustees: June 15, 2017