

## **NOTICE OF EMERGENCY UNIVERSITY REGULATION**

### **FSU-ER17-1 Freedom of Expression Rights and Responsibilities, Open Platform Areas**

On September 22, 2017, the Florida State University Board of Trustees will take up two revisions to the existing regulation concerning freedom of expression and use of campus facilities for First Amendment activities.

Within the last few months, college campuses both close to home and around the country have experienced violent, even deadly, incidents that originated as free speech rallies or protests, or have struggled with the decision to invite or disinvite controversial speakers for fear of inciting violence. In Charlottesville, Virginia, nineteen were injured and one person killed after a protest that originated on the University of Virginia's campus turned violent. In California, administrators at the University of California at Berkeley cancelled an appearance by conservative pundit Ann Coulter amid concerns that supporters and protestors would clash and the institution would be unable to ensure the safety of the groups. Ms. Coulter and fellow conservative firebrands Milo Yiannopolous and Steve Bannon are planning to speak at Berkeley during Free Speech Week, set to begin on September 24, 2017. At the University of Florida, administrators at this moment are facing a choice between allowing white supremacist Richard Spencer on campus or denying his request and becoming subject to a lawsuit.

There is an immediate need for clarification and procedure regarding FSU's regulations to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the University community. The revisions make clear FSU's authority to consider the safety and security of its campus when faced with speaker requests, and provide clear criteria for consideration of requests from outside groups and individuals. Making these processes and criteria known via a regulation promotes transparency and reduces the risk of unexpected or unanticipated events, which can be difficult to control and secure.

Questions or concerns regarding this Emergency Regulation may be directed to:

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