

PROPOSAL: Revision to the Western Michigan University Public Event Policy

Background

Western Michigan University (WMU) is dedicated to protecting and encouraging free and open association, discussion, and debate. All are important aspects of WMU's educational environment. WMU also seeks to ensure the health and safety of its faculty, staff, students, visitors, and speakers while they are on campus. WMU reserves the right to deny any requests for use of space if the proposed use substantially disrupts the WMU's educational activities, there is a reasonable forecast of substantial disruption, or the use creates a substantial, non-speculative concern about the safety of the WMU Community. This Policy sets forth how WMU considers use of event space and evaluates whether an event may require security services.

WMU seeks to ensure the safety of everyone in the WMU Community and protect all WMU facilities from damage while promoting the free discourse of ideas. Some proposed events may substantially disrupt WMU's educational purpose, create a reasonable forecast of substantial disruption, or create a non-speculative concern about the safety of attendees, the WMU community, the general public, and/or damage to WMU property. This Policy has been formulated to provide for the greatest possible range of use of common areas on campus by members of the WMU Community, while also protecting individual safety, assuring orderly and safe conduct of a particular event, and maintaining the general functioning of WMU consistent with applicable law.

This Policy combines, revises, and rescinds the existing, undated Event Security Policy, Common Area Academic, and Non-Academic Space Event policies. It also rescinds and subsumes the 1997 Outside Speakers Policy. This Policy supersedes any prior, contradicting WMU policy or guidance. There may be additional rescissions as WMU continues to review and revise existing policies.

Recommended Action

It is recommended the Board of Trustees approve the Public Event Policy Revisions as attached.