



Policy Title: Speakers Policy

Effective date: 9/1/1999

Pertains to: All students, faculty and staff

Policy Index: [www.stthomas.edu/policies](http://www.stthomas.edu/policies)

### **Speakers Policy (Adopted by Student Life Committee)**

A policy for speakers on campus should be guided by several principles and an awareness of existing practice.

The first principle is that there are varying degrees of responsibility with the effect that the university is eminently responsible for speakers that it invites on campus to speak to students or other members of the community. But obviously when the university allows legitimate outside groups to use its facilities, the burden of responsibility is autonomous with the sponsoring group. It is a corollary that the university, in allowing such groups to use its facilities, is governed by fairness and equity toward various conflicting views and interests, being mindful of the needs for wider information on the part of students and the larger community.

The principle of freedom, holding high respect in academic life and in our spiritual heritage, is never divorced from responsibility on the part of sponsoring groups or sponsors.

Another factor governing speakers on campus is our concern that a wide variety of issues and viewpoints be given expression. We take pride in the scope and quality of programs on campus during the past years. The value of freedom in the classroom is reflected in the campus forum, measuring the need to develop a critical mind against the appreciation of authority and competency in a given field.

Criticism in a constructive vein of speakers, or the selection of speakers is welcomed, especially where the quality of expression, depth and relevance is at stake. Success in this area depends on the initiative, objectivity and earnestness of sponsoring groups, such as university clubs and department offices.

[Return to top of page](#)

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