

## Free Speech on Campus Case Study: DePaul University

A registered student group at DePaul University called the DePaul Socialists was forced to pay hundreds of dollars for security guards to be present at their informational student meeting because the event was deemed “potentially controversial.” Administrators told the students if they would not pay for the guards, the event would be cancelled. Review the following statements from the Supreme Court to determine if this demand would hold up in court.

*Forsyth County v. Nationalist Movement* (1992.) In this case, the Supreme Court struck down an ordinance in Forsyth County, Georgia, that permitted the local government to set varying fees for events based upon how much police protection the event would need. Declaring the ordinance a violation of the First Amendment, the Court wrote that, “the fee assessed will depend on the administrator’s measure of the amount of hostility likely to be created by the speech based on its content. Those wishing to express views unpopular with bottle throwers, for example, may have to pay more for their permit.”

*Ward v. Rock Against Racism* (1989). A college may establish “reasonable time, place and manner” restrictions on speech and expressive activity. Any restrictions on student speech in open, outdoor areas of a public campus must be viewpoint- and content-neutral, and narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest, leaving open ample alternative channels for communication.

What is meant by the statement: “viewpoint- and content-neutral?”

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