

Free Speech at UNC 2019

Annual report on free speech and institutional neutrality in the UNC System

Thomas Connor



Executive Summary

In 2017, the North Carolina legislature passed House Bill 527 (now State Law 2017-196) in order to foster free, open inquiry in the state's colleges and universities. One of the provisions ordered the University of North Carolina system Board of Governors to produce an annual report on two major categories of intellectual freedom: free speech and institutional neutrality.

This report is the Martin Center's own analysis of free speech and institutional neutrality on the UNC system's 16 campuses. The report examines universities' choices for summer reading assignments and commencement speakers, whether they make public statements on controversial topics like climate change and diversity, the content of freshman orientation sessions, and universities' mission statements. It also records any barriers to student and faculty speech as well as any known disruptions or incidents that curtailed free speech in the past year.

Findings

To complete this report, the Martin Center consulted schools' websites and newspaper articles. We also contacted student groups to determine whether they experienced any difficulties exercising their rights to free expression.

The results of the Martin Center's analysis of free speech and institutional neutrality are below, organized by campus.

Institutional Neutrality and Free Speech by Institution and Category

	Summer Reading	Commencement Speaker	Climate Change	Diversity Statement	Freshman Orientation	Mission Statement	FIRE Rating	Disruptions
ASU	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
ECU	x	✓	---	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
ECSU	---	✓	---	---	✓	✓	x	✓
FSU	---	✓	---	---	✓	✓	x	✓
NC A&T	---	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
NCCU	---	x	---	---	---	✓	✓	✓
NCSU	x	✓	---	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
UNCA	✓	✓	---	x	x	✓	x	✓
UNC-CH	---	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
UNCC	---	✓	---	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNCG	---	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNCP	---	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
UNCW	---	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓

Source: University websites



Appalachian State University

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: [Just Mercy](#) by Bryan Stevenson (“Just Mercy” details the injustices of a broken criminal justice system that punishes impoverished people, and Stevenson’s work to improve that system.)
2. Commencement Speaker: Various degree recipients from each college (no controversy present).
3. Climate Change Statements:
 - a. [Second Nature Climate Pledge](#)
 - b. [White House Climate Pledge](#)
4. [Diversity Statements](#):
 - a. “Appalachian State University is committed to developing and allocating resources to the fundamental task of creating a diverse campus culture. We value diversity as the expression of human similarities and differences, as well as the importance of a living and learning environment conducive to knowledge, respect, acceptance, understanding and global awareness.”
5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): No controversy.

6. [Mission Statements:](#)

- a. Appalachian State University prepares students to lead purposeful lives as engaged global citizens who understand their responsibilities in creating a sustainable future for all.
- b. No controversial statements in any department mission statements.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Green
2. Controversial Policies: None

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

East Carolina University

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: [*The Nature Principle*](#) by Richard Louv. (“The future will belong to the nature-smart—those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world and who balance the virtual with the real. The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need.”)
2. Commencement Speaker: Emily Procter (ECU alum; actor; founder of Pippa+Pail, a service nonprofit.)
3. Climate Change Statements: None found.
4. [Diversity Statements](#): “ECU will cultivate an inclusive, respectful working, living and learning environment; provide culturally and academically rich educational experiences; prepare our students to lead in a global multicultural society; and engage the region through inclusive social and economic opportunities.”
5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): No controversy.
6. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Green
2. Controversial Policies: None

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

Elizabeth City State University

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: None
2. Commencement Speaker: Tyrone Poole (Former NFL player).
3. Climate Change Statements: None found.
4. Diversity Statements: No controversy.
5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): No controversy.
6. [Mission Statements](#): “The Office of the Provost and the Division of Academic Affairs provides leadership in developing and maintaining quality academic programs and support services that contribute to the achievement of the university's mission. ECSU strives to be recognized as a student-centered university with emphasis on excellence in teaching and learning, for its excellence in scholarly activities, and for its outstanding service and engagement with local, regional, national and global communities.”

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Yellow
2. [Controversial Policies](#):

Policy 500.6.3: Promotion Policy for Student Events and Activities (Posting and Distribution Policies; September 17, 2018):

“Information on posters, handbills, flyers and banners which can be considered racially, sexually or otherwise offensive may not be posted. Decisions will be

made by the Office of Student Life based on the UNC General Administration and Elizabeth City State University policy or applicable federal regulation.”

Policy 700.1.8: Internet Acceptable Use Policy (Internet Usage Policies;

September 17, 2018):

“Except where it is explicitly permitted, it is a violation of one or more university policies, state or federal law(s) for users of the university’s Internet resources to: ... Provide obscene, defamatory, or harassing language or material, or use the resources to defame or harass. ... Use network resources to view or transmit pornography or other objectionable material.”

Policy 500.3.2.1: Clubs and Organizations Policy (Protest and Demonstration Policies; September 17, 2018):

The designated area on campus for ‘free speech’ events is the Outdoor Classroom.”

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

Fayetteville State University

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: None
2. Commencement Speaker: Honorable Cheri Beasley (Chief Justice of the NC Supreme Court).
3. Climate Change Statements: None found.
4. Diversity Statements: No controversy.
5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): No controversy.
6. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Yellow
2. [Controversial Policies](#):

Student Handbook: Title IX- Sexual Harassment

“Sexual harassment is defined as follows: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when: ... such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance, academic activities or student experience, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working, academic or student life environment.”

Student Handbook: Bulletin Boards, Fliers & Posters

“Fliers and posters may be displayed on bulletin boards and other designated areas within buildings. Fliers and posters may NOT be posted on glass doors, light poles, call boxes, signs, trees, or other outdoor equipment or surfaces. Further permission from some building or location managers may be required. Any posting in a location that is not approved will be immediately removed. Only fliers and posters approved for distribution and representing recognized University clubs, organizations, or departments may be posted on campus.”

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

North Carolina A&T University

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: None
2. Commencement Speaker: Willie A Deese (Merck Manufacturing Executive).
3. [Climate Change](#) Statements: 2015 climate statement.
4. [Diversity Statements](#): No controversy.
5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): No controversy.
6. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Yellow
2. [Controversial Policies](#):

Network Usage Policy (Internet Usage Policies; August 23, 2019):

“Unacceptable activities include, but are not limited to: ... Activity such as threatening the safety of individual(s) and/or property, intimidating or bullying individual(s), defamation of individual(s), and violation of student and/or employee policies.”

Student Handbook: Residence Hall Policies- Prohibited Behavior (Bullying Policies; August 23, 2019)

“Prohibited Behavior (includes but is not limited to) ... Bullying and cyberstalking.”

Use of University Space (Protest and Demonstration Policies; August 23, 2019)

“[U]se of University buildings and/or property is prohibited unless prior clearance and arrangements have been made.”

...

“All events taking place outdoors, held in venues holding 500 people or more, and/or requiring tickets sales/distribution are considered Major Events. These events often require extensive logistical needs, including but not limited to staging, sound/light equipment, campus security, musical performance/theatrical productions, etc. All persons/organizations planning major events must complete and submit the notice requirement to the University Event Center no less than thirty (30) business days prior to the proposed event date. No exceptions.”

...

“5.7.1 Occasionally, events occur which demand immediate public outcry (“unscheduled use”). It is not the intent of the University to limit students’ and University employees’ right to assemble or protest when such events occur. Unscheduled uses may occur by University Groups, Student Groups, students, and University employees provided that the activity does not interfere with University activities as described in this Policy or any events or functions for which that the occupied space has been reserved in advance.”

“5.7.2 Although not required, to further the effectiveness of the unscheduled use, University Groups, Student Organization Groups, students, and University employees are encouraged to contact University Event Center and Campus Police to provide notification about the activity. Advance notification enables the University to help ensure that the activity does not conflict with a reserved or scheduled use, takes place in a constructive manner, the event is effective, to safeguard the participants’ safety, and to assist organizers in seeing that the activity does not disrupt the University’s educational activities and essential processes.”

Student Handbook: Student Rights and Responsibilities (Policies on Tolerance, Respect, and Civility; August 23, 2019)

Students have the responsibility to: ... Conduct themselves with civility (respect and courtesy) toward others at all times; ...

Student Handbook: Misconduct Prohibited by the University (Harassment Policies; August 23, 2019)

Hazing, harassment, and/or intimidation ... defined as the intentional commission of an act, by an individual or group, of physically abusing or harassing another person or creating a situation which produces physical hurt or discomfort, severe emotional distress, embarrassment, or ridicule; ...

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

North Carolina Central University

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: None
2. Commencement Speaker: [Reverend Dr. William Barber II](#) (pastor and political activist). Barber advanced explicitly progressive political goals and encouraged students to get involved in politics. He suggested that Republican politicians are elected to office due to racist voter suppression laws.
3. Climate Change Statements: None found.
4. Diversity Statements: None known.
5. Freshmen Orientation: No schedule available.
6. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.
 - a. [Vision](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Green
2. Controversial Policies: None

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

North Carolina State University

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah.
2. Commencement Speaker: Virginia Rometty (CEO of IBM).
3. Climate Change Statements: None found.
4. [Diversity Statements](#): No controversy.
5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): The event where they go over community expectations could have the ability to contain controversial information.
6. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Green
 - a. Had a yellow rating last year due to Bias Impact Response Team and free speech codes but have updated their policies to allow more protection for speech.
2. Controversial Policies: None

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known .

University of North Carolina at Asheville

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. [Summer Reading](#): *Callings: The Purpose and Passion of Work* by Dave Isay
2. Commencement Speaker: Paula A Kerger (CEO of PBS).
3. In June, the university [announced that it will divest](#) about 10 percent of its endowment from fossil fuels. By taking an official stance on a political issue of the day, such a policy [clearly violates](#) institutional neutrality.
4. Climate Change Statements: None found.
5. [Diversity Intensive Vision Statement](#) (part of Diversity Intensive workshops): The Diversity Intensive Vision Statement Guidelines promote politicized subject matter such as: “power dynamics,” “power imbalances,” intersectionality, and “safe space[s].” There is no mention of intellectual or viewpoint diversity.
6. [Freshman Orientation](#): “Personal Safety, Social Responsibility and Civil Discourse” is possibly controversial.
7. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Yellow
2. [Controversial Policies](#):

Outdoor Area and Exterior Space Use Policy (Protest and Demonstration Policies; August 2, 2019):

Persons shall not engage in unlawful speech such as threatening or abusive speech, or intimidating conduct towards any other person.

...

Assemblies with an expected attendance of more than 25 people must be reported no less than 48 hours in advance to the University police.

...

University groups may conduct activities and assemblies without prior approval at any exterior campus location provided the assembly/activity aligns with the requirements in section III above and the space is not required to be reserved.

Resident Student Handbook: Community Creed (Policies Restricting Freedom of Conscience; August 2, 2019):

The University of North Carolina at Asheville is a community of scholars dedicated to personal and academic excellence and growth. In joining this learning community, I commit to a code of civilized behavior.

I will practice personal ethics and academic integrity

I will honor the dignity of all persons

I will respect the rights of others

I will promote and practice inclusion and actively engage in learning about other cultures

I will actively show concern for others, their feelings, and their need for conditions, which support their work and development.

Allegiance to these ideals requires me to demonstrate behaviors that foster and support the freedom and respect of every individual in my community

Sexual Harassment Policy (Harassment Policies; August 2, 2019):

Environmental Sexual Harassment – Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute “environmental sexual harassment” when such conduct has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment which unreasonably interferes with another’s work, academic performance or privacy. Environmental harassment can inflict emotional and psychological harm on individuals and can make relationships and the work or study environment unpleasant, threatening and unproductive. However, there is no requirement that evidence of actual emotional or physiological harm be shown in order for environmental sexual harassment to be found to have occurred.

In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment as defined in the policy, the record as a whole will be considered as well as the context in which the conduct occurred. “Environmental sexual harassment” normally arises from a repeated or pervasive course of conduct, whereas “bargained-for sexual harassment” can be based on a single act.

Electronic Harassment, Threats, Stalking, and Similar Activities (Internet Usage Policies; August 2, 2019):

- A. Users may not use electronic communications to harass, stalk, or threaten others, or in similar ways create an atmosphere which unreasonably interferes with the education or employment experience.
- B. This would include, but not be limited to, posting, transmitting, or originating any unlawful, threatening, abusive, hostile, fraudulent or defamatory communication, or any communication where the message, or its transmission or distribution, would constitute or would encourage conduct that would constitute a criminal offense, give rise to civil liability, or otherwise violate any local, state, national, or international law or violate other policies, rules and regulations of the University. Information that is defamatory is defined as provably false, unprivileged statements that do demonstrated injury to an individual's or a business's reputation.
- C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech
1. Shout-downs: None known.
 2. [Disinvites](#): There was an attempt last year to disinvite the keynote speaker, Tamika Mallory because of comments and conduct that were deemed anti-semitic. The university upheld its decision to invite her.
 3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: None
2. Commencement Speaker: Alumnus Jonathan T.M. Reckford.
3. [Climate Change](#) Statements: 2015 climate change statement.
4. [Diversity Statements](#):

“We are determined to chart a course where we can all work together to create and sustain the kind of community where we all feel welcomed, respected and free to pursue our goals and dreams and to become our best and truest selves. To realize that course, we must create a diversity structure that is coordinated and integrated, that celebrates all forms of diversity, and which ensures equitable and inclusive educational and social benefits for all.”

-Carol L. Folt (Chancellor)

5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): No controversy.
6. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Green
 - a. UNC implemented the [Chicago statement](#) in 2018.
2. Controversial Policies: None

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.
4. There were two incidents of UNC-Chapel Hill students disrupting, sometimes with violence, peaceful pro-life demonstrations on campus. The Martin Center attempted to find out from UNC administrators whether the students would face official university sanctions. UNC administrators did not respond.
 - a. [A UNC Chapel Hill student physically assaulted](#) a pro-life demonstrator. She hit him in the face several times, as well as in the stomach.
 - b. [Another incident](#) involved a student stealing a sign from pro-life demonstrators. She was arrested by university police for larceny.

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: None
2. Commencement Speaker: Wei Tsay (an international business student)
3. Climate Change Statements: None found.
4. [Diversity Statements](#): No controversy.
5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): No controversy.
6. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Green
2. Controversial Policies: None

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. [Summer Reading](#): The Kecker Common Reading Program was discontinued as of last year. There was no reason provided as to why.
2. Commencement Speaker: Ken Jeong (actor, native of Greensboro).
3. [Climate Change Statements](#): No controversy.
4. [Diversity Statements](#): No controversy.
5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): No controversy.
6. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Green
2. Controversial Policies: None

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

University of North Carolina at Pembroke

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: None
2. Commencement Speaker: Jefferson Keel (president of the National Congress of American Indians).
3. Climate Change Statements: None found.
4. [Diversity Statements](#): No controversy.
5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): No controversy.
6. [Mission Statements](#): The core values section could be deemed controversial.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Green
 - a. UNC Pembroke's administration brought their speech policies in line with the Constitution and moved their FIRE rating from yellow to green.
2. Controversial Policies: None

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: Synergy Summer Reading Program was discontinued.
2. Commencement Speaker: Brad Health (Family Medical Supply), Stephanie Lanier (founder of the Lanier group), Bethany Meigen (UNC system VP of Student Affairs), Bill Saffo (mayor of Wilmington).
3. [Climate Change Statements](#): 2015 climate change statement.
4. [Diversity Statements](#): No controversy.
5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): No controversy.
6. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Green
2. Controversial Policies: None

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

University of North Carolina School of the Arts

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: None
2. Commencement Speaker: Mary-Mitchell Campbell (Broadway music director).
3. Climate Change Statements: None found.
4. [Diversity Statements](#): No controversy.
5. [Freshmen Orientation](#): No controversy.
6. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Yellow
2. [Controversial Policies](#):

Facilities Use Policy: Free Speech and Assembly Area (Protest and Demonstration Policies; August 6, 2018):

VI. Open Assembly and Expression Area

- A. Subject to restrictions on the use of UNCSA facilities prescribed in this policy and procedure and elsewhere. UNCSA permits assemblies and gatherings of University-sponsored, University-affiliated, and non-affiliated groups (Groups A, B, C) without prior approval, in the area located at the athletic field between the Film Village and the Fitness Center. See Appendix 2 – Campus Map. UNCSA

may permit assemblies and gatherings, with prior approval, at other exterior locations.

- B. Although prior approval of gatherings in the Open Assembly and Expression Area is not required, notification of the intent to hold a gathering or assembly must be given to the UNCSA Dean of Students and the UNCSA Department of Police & Public Safety, at least 48 hours in advance.
- C. Assemblies and gatherings in the Open Assembly and Expression Area, and other exterior locations, must be conducted without sound amplification equipment, unless approved by the UNCSA Dean of Students and the UNCSA Department of Police and Public Safety.

College Handbook: Student Code of Conduct: Sexual Harassment (Harassment Policies; August 6, 2018)

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct when: ... such conduct unreasonably affects or interferes with an individual's academic or work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

College Handbook: Appendix F: Content of Posters and Disseminated Materials (Posting and Distribution Policies; August 6, 2018)

All posters must clearly note the group, business, person, or organization responsible for the posting with full name and accurate contact information. The posting

date must be designated on the poster. Posters that do not have the full information described above will be removed immediately.

Prohibited Harassment Procedure (Harassment Policies; August 6, 2018)

III. Definition of sexual harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct.

A. Examples of types of conduct

Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination, and can take two forms: quid pro quo and hostile environment. ... Hostile environment harassment occurs when unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature is sufficiently serious that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an education program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment. A hostile environment can be created by a school employee, another student, or even someone visiting the school, such as a student or employee from another school.

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

Western Carolina University

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. [Summer Reading](#): *We Need to Talk: How to Have Conversations that Matter* by Celeste Headlee.
2. Commencement Speaker: Dr. John F. Whitmire Jr. (UNC Board of Governors recipient of Excellence in Teaching).
3. Climate Change Statements: None found.
4. [Diversity Statements](#): No controversy.
5. [Freshman Orientation](#): No controversy.
6. [Mission Statements](#): No controversy.

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Green
 - a. WCU brought their speech policies in line with the Constitution and received a green light from FIRE.
2. Controversial Policies: None

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

Winston Salem State University

A. Institutional Neutrality

1. Summer Reading: None
2. Commencement Speaker: Kwanza Jones (recording artist).
3. Climate Change Statements: None found.
4. [Diversity Statements](#): EEO/AA policies and training are potentially controversial
5. Freshmen Orientation: Online orientation; no schedule available.
6. [Mission Statements](#): Potentially controversial
 - a. “Winston-Salem State University believes in a deep individual and institutional responsibility to creatively respond to injustice and work toward the establishment of just, equitable, and sustainable cultural, economic, political and social principles and practices that affirm the worth, value, and dignity of all people.”

B. Barriers to Free Speech

1. FIRE rating: Yellow
2. [Controversial Policies](#):

Undergraduate Catalog: Policies and Regulations Governing Student Life (Other Speech Codes; October 22, 2018):

When a student does not demonstrate the desire to live according to approved codes of social behavior, the university may suspend enrollment until the student can

adjust to the required standards. The institution reserves the right to suspend and expel any student whose actions are undesirable or injurious to the university community.

General University Policies: Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy

(Harassment Policies; October 22, 2018):

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when ... such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment.

Undergraduate Catalog: Policies and Regulations Governing Student Life- Policy on Posting and Distribution of Notices and Printed Materials (Posting and Distribution Policies; October 22, 2018):

Publications and printed materials may be distributed on the campus only if the originator is clearly identified, and in places and times designated by the university policy on distribution and posting of notices and printed materials.

...

Notices must carry the name of the organization or individual sponsoring the event, and the sponsoring organization or individual is responsible for the removal of its own outdated notices. Notices of events (e.g., movies, dances, and concerts)

sponsored by off campus businesses or groups are permitted only in designated areas on campus and with the approval of the director of student activities.

Copies of advertisements (e.g., signs, posters, and flyers) for all events sponsored by and for students and student organizations must be filed with the director of student activities. Advertisements for activities other than for entertainment must be cleared through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Student Code of Conduct (Policies on Tolerance, Respect, and Civility; October 22, 2018): Students are expected to exercise judgment and discretion in their actions, and are not to: ... Engage or subject another individual, whether intentional or unintentional, in activity likely to cause physical injury, mental distress, personal indignities of a highly offensive nature; engage in fighting.

General University Policies: Outdoor Assemblies (Protest and Demonstration Policies; October 22, 2018):

Anyone who wishes to sponsor or organize an assembly or public address must contact the Director of Student Activities ... for an application and permit. The application must be received at least 3 business days before the proposed time and date of event.

**Undergraduate Catalog: Policies and Regulations Governing Student Life- General
Guidelines for Student Behavior (Harassment Policies; October 22, 2019):**

Students are not to engage in any form of fighting, physical abuse, harassment, verbal abuse, or disorderly conduct.

C. Disruptions/Violations of Free Speech

1. Shout-downs: None known.
2. Disinvites: None known.
3. Administration-based Issues: None known.

This report is published by the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal.

As a private, educational nonprofit focused on public policy, the Martin Center works to renew and fulfill the promise of higher education. We are dedicated to promoting knowledge over credentials, restoring genuine liberal learning, and ensuring that public investment in higher education provides value to students, taxpayers, and society.

We advocate responsible governance, viewpoint diversity, academic quality, cost-effective education solutions, and market-based reform. We do that by studying and reporting on critical issues in higher education and recommending policies that can create change—especially at the state and local level. We are located in Raleigh, North Carolina and have a special focus on our home state.

In these endeavors, we are motivated by the principles that have traditionally guided American public policy: limits on government; freedom to pursue goals through voluntary means; accountability through private property rights and contracts; and the belief that competition is an excellent regulating force.

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By Thomas Connor

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