


Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2019


To: Students for a Democratic Society



From: Brian Burton, Director of Student Conduct & Community Standards

Cc: Lori McDonald, Dean of Students
Erica Andersen, Director of Student Leadership & Involvement

Re: Notice of Behavioral Expectations



This letter is in regard to a demonstration organized by the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. The demonstration involved shouting, chanting, and the unfurling of large banner from the fourth floor inside of the Marriott Library. While members of the group dispersed after being asked to do so, these actions were disruptive to the library environment and to the students who were trying to engage in research and other academic activities. Those actions violated University policy. The purpose of this letter is twofold: first, to provide you with formal written notice of expectations of behavior as a registered student organization and individual students, and second, to make you aware of applicable University policies related to speech and posting.

[University Policy 6-400](#), Section II outlines the Student Bill of Rights and explains that all students have certain rights as members of the University community in addition to those constitutional and statutory rights and privileges inherent from the State of Utah and the United States of America. Among other points, our Student Bill of Rights articulates our shared responsibility not to deny other students of these same rights. Freedom of expression is valued at the University of Utah. Specifically, demonstrations on campus are legitimate means of expression and anyone who wishes to engage in this activity shall be permitted to do so freely, as long as their conduct is not violent and does not unduly disrupt the functioning of the University or interfere with the rights of other members of the University community or damage University or private property (see University's [Speech Policy, 1-007](#)). These limitations are known as time, place, and manner restrictions and apply regardless of content.

Policy 1-007(vi), prohibits demonstrations that (1) are "violent," (2) "unduly disrupt the functioning of the University", (3) "interfere with the rights of other members of the University community" or (4) will "damage University or private property." As explained in the University [Guideline G1-007A](#), a protester(s)/group that that engages in any of these prohibited activities may be asked to leave the University building. Any such request will first be made by University administrators and will include a warning to the protester about trespassing and the possibility of arrest. If the protester(s)/group refuses to leave when a request is made, a second request may be made by University police who will again

warn the protester about trespassing and the possibility of arrest. If necessary, a protester(s)/group who refuses to comply with the University's reasonable directions and who is in violation of University Policy may be arrested. In addition, a member of the University community who is alleged to have violated Policy 1-007(vi) or any other University Policy may be referred to the appropriate faculty, staff, and/or student disciplinary process.

Specific to the demonstration on February 19, 2019, the actions of SDS interfered with the rights of other University students who appropriately expect the Marriott Library to be a space of quiet and study. Therefore, this is formal notice that any further violation(s) of University Policy may result in, but may not be limited to, individual referrals to the Office of the Dean of Students, trespass and criminal citation, and withdrawal of SDS student group recognition by the Committee on Student Affairs. Similarly, please be aware that all student organizations are expected to adhere to [University Policy 1-007](#) when posting signs and banners around campus.

I appreciate your attention in these matters and am available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have regarding this notice or University policies.

Very respectfully,

Brian Burton
Director, Student Conduct & Community Standards
Associate Dean of Students
University of Utah