

**Policy Name:** Freedom of Expression Policy  
**Policy Number:** 5002  
**Effective Date:** December 2013  
**Revision Date:**  
**Responsible Party:** Student Affairs  
**Approved:** Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

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**INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE:**

MSU Billings supports and encourages diverse points of view, though they may seem distasteful or offensive to some, as this is the nature of the University's educational responsibility and is safeguarded by the freedom of expression. The acceptance of diversity is a fundamental tenant of the university system, and is instrumental to the creation of new discourses and the weighing of different views.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

MSU Billings recognizes the First Amendment rights to expression. These rights include individual and group activities including but not limited to:

- Assembling
- Demonstrating
- Signing
- Pamphleting
- Structuring, and
- Political campaigning.

**PROCEDURES:**

The right to freedom of speech includes exercising it responsibly, including abiding by the following:

- A. The use of violence, or credible threats of violence, is strictly prohibited.
- B. Activities, which infringe upon the rights of another person, are prohibited in accordance with Policy 603.1 University Facility Use Policies and Procedures, Section 630 and Part II, B and C of the Student Handbook.
- C. Activities may not obstruct the free flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic on campus.
- D. Activities may not use sound amplification except with prior written approval and in accordance with Policy 6606 Use of Amplification Equipment.
- E. Activities may not block the entrances or exits to any campus building or facility.
  1. A distance of 50 feet from any building or facility must be kept to alleviate the interruption of the flow of campus community traffic.
  2. To exercise expression at closer than this buffer area, permission must be granted in writing by the Student Union and Events Office in conjunction with University Police.
  3. No expression activities are allowed within any university buildings, facilities, stadiums, or temporary event facilities such as tents etc., unless the facility use is duly approved in accordance with Policy 603.1 University Facility Use Policies and Procedures.
- F. Printed materials, writing, or other tangible means of expression may not be attached to University property, including sidewalks, trees, walls, or other property (including on vehicles parked on campus), except that such materials may be placed on outdoor bulletin boards designated as public bulletin boards. All postings on public bulletin boards will be removed at regular intervals.
- G. Printed materials, writings, or other tangible means of expression may not be placed on any interior surface of any University building without the written permission of the relevant Building Manager and in accordance with the rules established for each building as outlined in Policy 603.1 University Facility Use Policies and Procedures and Policy 6605 Posting of Advertisements, Printed Material and Solicitation
- H. Activities may not disrupt, block, or physically displace performers/programs that have reserved a venue or facility.
- I. Individuals or groups may not permanently occupy land areas or permanently place signs and posters. This prohibition includes but is not limited to the erection of permanent structures, shelters, or camps.

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- J. Activities may not interfere with classes, university work, arts and cultural activities, research, or scheduled events.
- K. Individuals and organizations are responsible for cleanup and for any cleanup costs resulting to the University from their activities.
- L. Individuals and organizations are responsible for the content of any signage, pamphlets, or structure that they post, distribute, or erect on campus.
- M. Furthermore, the University reminds any organization distributing materials to be aware of laws concerning defamation, obscenity, fair labor practices, etc.

**Other Related Information and Links:**

Policy 603.1 – Facility Use Policies and Procedures

Policy 6605 - Posting of Advertisements, Printed Material and Solicitation

Policy 6606 – Amplification Equipment, Use of

Student Policies and Procedures Handbook