



POLITICAL SPEECH

The following resources may assist University faculty and staff in managing political speech in classrooms and other forums during this election season.

Minnesota State General Counsel: guidance on elections and politics

<https://www.minnstate.edu/system/ogc/docs/webinars/2019Sept12ElectionsandPolitics.pdf>

Excerpt:

Public Institutions Are Subject to the First Amendment

- Campuses are “peculiarly marketplaces of ideas” -- merely offensive ideas may not be shut off in the name of “conventions” of decency. The First Amendment generally protects speech from government sanction but not speech that:
 - “Substantially disrupts” college/university operations; or
 - Speech that is not protected by the First Amendment such as
 - “Fighting words”
 - “True threats”
 - Unlawful harassment/discrimination
 - Obscenity, defamation

Classroom Speech and Behavior

- Conflict sometimes happens in the “marketplace of ideas.”
- Board Policy 3.1, part 2. Freedom of Expression.
 - Students shall be free to support causes by orderly means that do not substantially disrupt the regular and essential operation of the institution.
 - Students shall be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.
- Faculty may manage discussion with appropriate rules.
 - Reasonably related to pedagogical concerns.
 - Not pretext for viewpoint discrimination.

Managing Classroom Conflict – UNC Chapel Hill Center for Faculty Excellence

https://cdn.vanderbilt.edu/vu-wp0/wp-content/uploads/sites/59/2017/03/01130813/Managing_Classroom_Conflict-Center_for_Faculty_Excellence-UNC_Chapel_Hill.pdf

Braver Angels <https://braverangels.org/>

An organization which believes “Come with your convictions, your willingness to listen, and your readiness to talk with others who disagree with you” and work toward “a house united.”

1. The Braver Angels approach to the political divide; great graphics. <https://braverangels.org/our-story/#problem>
2. Free podcast <https://braverangels.org/category/podcasts/ba-podcast/>
3. Live debates <https://braverangels.org/what-we-do/debates/> The debates are live and most are free. One may screen capture a debate to use later.

See reverse for information on Diversity and Inclusion