

# ***Policies and Procedures***

<b>SECTION:</b> <b>Administration</b>	<b>NO.</b> <b>2.1.2.</b>		
<b>CHAPTER:</b> <b>General</b>	<b>ISSUED:</b> 3/7/88	<b>REV. A</b> 10/28/08	<b>REV. B</b>
<b>POLICY:</b> <b>Speakers and Artistic/Creative Presenters Policy</b>	<b>PAGE 1 OF 3</b>		

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Creighton is a Jesuit and Catholic private university. As Catholic, Creighton is committed to identification with a specific religious tradition and all of its essential values. As a university, Creighton University is committed to its role as an academic institution in which the widest possible freedom of expression and openness to diverse ideas should be responsibly presented and examined, including critical examination of ideas and perspectives which may be or may appear to be incompatible with its Catholic tradition and mission.

An essential element in the Jesuit tradition is an emphasis on encouragement of active dialogue in the classroom, understanding traditions more deeply, and expanding awareness of diverse cultures and beliefs. Fostering intellectual, ethical, social and religious dialogue is fundamental to the development of intellectual exchange and social awareness in Creighton students and is integral to the nature of the university.

Creighton University has a responsibility to foster intellectual engagement and explore new ideas, new approaches and new cultures, but, as a Catholic university, Creighton has the added responsibility of fostering engagement among these perspectives and forms of knowledge with the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Creighton University is committed to presenting fairly and accurately the Catholic positions on social, moral and all other issues.

## **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This policy explains the process to be followed when inviting an outside speaker or other artistic/creative presenter for a public event.

Additionally, this policy provides guidance in reconciling possible or perceived conflicts between Creighton's commitments as a Jesuit, Catholic institution and its commitments as a university when speakers or other artistic/creative presenters are invited by any Creighton University entity for public events. For purposes of this policy, "public event" means an event hosted, sponsored or funded by any Creighton University entity, including an event hosted, sponsored or funded by the Creighton Students Union, whether or not held on campus, which involves an outside speaker or other artistic/creative performer and at which persons other than the members of the inviting group are reasonably expected to be in the audience.

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### **EXCLUSION FROM THIS POLICY**

This policy does not apply to outside speakers or other artistic/creative performers invited by faculty members in the regular conduct of a scheduled University course. The Academic Freedom and Responsibility provisions of the *Faculty Handbook* guide faculty members in this regard.

### **APPROVAL PROCESS – GENERALLY**

An academic department, University-registered student organization, Center Director, endowed chair, administrative office/department of the University, other Creighton University entity or the Creighton Students Union (the "Inviter") that wishes to invite an outside speaker or other artistic/creative performer for a public event is expected to use responsible judgment and the framework of this policy in selecting the speaker or other artistic/creative performer, in setting the framework of the event, in publicizing the event and in all matters materially related to the event.

If an invitation is extended, the Inviter must have a written agreement with the speaker or other artistic/creative performer confirming the details of the event. Inviters are encouraged to use the University's standard contract routing procedure to process such agreements. If the public event is to be held on campus, the Inviter must schedule the event with the Division of Student Services or the academic or departmental office that schedules the requested facility.

### **APPROVAL PROCESS – POTENTIAL CONTROVERSY**

If it is reasonably likely that a potential speaker or other artistic/creative performer will espouse or appear to espouse positions in conflict with Creighton's traditions and values, the Inviter must inform the relevant Vice President of the planned invitation and provide the Vice President with background information about the invitee's positions, works, published speeches and other relevant information to allow the Vice President to make an informed judgment as to whether and under what circumstances (including but not limited to the format of the event) the invitation should be extended.

In making that judgment, the Vice President should seek input from potentially affected interested parties as well as an ad hoc consultative group created by the Vice President consisting of persons with subject matter expertise to help guide the decision making process concerning holding the public event on Creighton's campus.

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In the case of an invitation requiring review by the relevant Vice President, that Vice President should be given 30 days advance notice of the proposed invitation.

### **NO CONNOTED ENDORSEMENT**

The scheduling of public events does not necessarily connote Creighton University's approval or endorsement of the views expressed at such events.

### **ISSUES AFFECTING CREIGHTON AS A TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION**

As a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, Creighton cannot participate or intervene in any political campaign. The University refrains from sponsoring programs designed to raise funds for political candidates or parties. Creighton may provide opportunities for legally qualified candidates for public office to speak on the University campus subject to applicable laws and IRS guidelines.

### **RESERVATION OF RIGHTS**

Creighton University reserves the authority to cancel or refuse to allow any public event whose nature or presentation or support of an issue is contrary to or inconsistent with the University's mission and/or its Jesuit, Catholic identity or if the University cannot assure the adequate safety of the Creighton community or the invited speaker or persons participating in the event. The final determination in this regard shall be made at the discretion of the President or the President's designee.