



## Essential Policies for the Columbia Community

### §440. DEMONSTRATIONS, RALLIES, AND PICKETING

Demonstrations, rallies, picketing, and the circulation of petitions have an important place in the life of a university. They are means by which protests may be registered and attention drawn to new directions possible in the evolution of the University community. But in order to protect the rights of all members of the University community and to ensure the proper functioning of the University as an institution of teaching and research, it is necessary to impose reasonable restraints on the place and manner in which picketing and other demonstrations are conducted and on activities of counter demonstrators or self-appointed vigilantes. This is the intention of the Rules of University Conduct: to protect the concurrent rights of both the University community as a whole and demonstrators.

While the University as a private institution is not subject to the Constitutional provisions on free speech and due process of law, the University by its nature is dedicated to the free expression of ideas and to evenhanded and fair dealing with all with whom it conducts its affairs. The Rules of University Conduct are thus enacted by the University to provide as a matter of University policy the maximum freedom of expression consistent with the rights of others and a fair and speedy hearing to any person charged with a violation of these Rules.

A violation of these Rules is an offense against the entire University community. However, such violations are not here considered as crimes, and University disciplines should not carry the same stigma as a criminal conviction. All members of the University community are assumed to be innocent until proven guilty of a violation of the Rules. The University shall publicize the existence of the Rules and make them readily available to persons who may be affected by them. Such persons are responsible for being aware of all provisions contained in the Rules.

### Rules of University Conduct

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