Principles for External Speaker Events
When the Public Is Invited

Introduction

Carroll College is committed to providing an academic environment in which faculty and students are encouraged to seek truth, develop critical thinking, and make responsible decisions. To achieve these objectives, members of the college community must be free to engage the full range of views on a variety of subjects. In its commitment to dialogue with culture and society, academic departments and faculty organizations may invite speakers or organizations to campus that hold ideas or opinions that may differ with Catholic teaching or otherwise be considered controversial. In extending such invitations, members of the college community have an obligation to respect the special aims and objectives of Carroll College as described in its mission statement, and ensure that multiple viewpoints are heard, a balance of viewpoints is sought, and the Catholic intellectual tradition is represented with clarity and conviction.

Application

This policy applies only to off-campus persons or organizations that will speak or make presentations on campus to which the public has been invited. This policy does not apply to speakers invited by faculty to address students enrolled in a course they are teaching, or to internal faculty, student or staff seminars, workshops or colloquia.

Purpose

The purposes of this policy are: 1) to encourage the college community to provide a diversity of issues and perspectives, including the Catholic intellectual tradition, for consideration by its constituents on and off campus; and 2) to ensure that all members of the college community have the opportunity to freely engage those issues and perspectives.

Arrangements

In accordance with applicable college policies, the academic program or organized faculty group wishing to extend an invitation to an external speaker or organization must make arrangements for necessary facilities, funding, and/or personnel prior to extending the invitation. The College’s control of campus facilities and resources will not be used as a device for censorship. However, the College reserves the right to control the time, place and manner of such speeches and events on campus to maintain safety and order.
Circumstances Necessitating Consultation

Where the perspective of the speaker, program or event might appear to be in opposition to the mission statement of the College or is so controversial as to arouse emotions or create unnecessary turmoil, the academic department or faculty organization proposing the event will consult with appropriate members of the college community before extending the invitation. In all cases, the vice president for academic affairs should be kept apprised of possible controversial issues and involved in the consultative process. After due consultation and good faith efforts to reconcile differences that may arise, a decision concerning the disposition of the event will normally be made by the sponsoring academic department or organized faculty group, in light of their academic expertise and professional responsibility for the College’s mission. However, the Board of Trustees must reserve to itself or to the President the right of final determination on matters the Trustees see as being of major concern to the College or where the competence and action of the Board of Trustees is required.

Revised by Board of Trustees on May 5, 2006

Carroll College Speaker Disclaimer

Carroll College seeks to provide a campus intellectual environment that encourages the pursuit of truth, critical thinking, and responsible decision-making. External guest speakers are invited to public events on campus in order to contribute to these goals. Carroll College neither agrees nor disagrees necessarily with views expressed, but rather provides a forum so that each person attending may hear and discuss the ideas and opinions expressed.

Adopted March 9, 2010