

Policy for External Speaker Events When the Public Is Invited



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.

Scope

Carroll College is committed to providing a campus-wide intellectual environment in which faculty, students and other members of the College community 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. Even unwelcome or controversial views need to be heard, discussed and analyzed. Therefore, neither agreement with Catholic teaching nor the desire to avoid offense should be the guiding principles for the invitation of speaker to campus or in the organization of campus programs by academic departments, organized faculty groups and other College organizations*. In extending such invitations, however, members of the College community have an obligation to respect the special aims and objectives of Carroll College as described in the statement of mission. * *The Student Handbook speakers' policy (p.129) governs Carroll student organizations that sponsor external speakers on campus.*

General Policy

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.

Arrangements

In accordance with applicable college policies, the academic program, organized faculty group or other College organization 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, organized faculty group or other College organization proposing the event will consult with appropriate members of the college community before extending the invitation. For example, if the speaker program or event might be considered contrary to Catholic teaching, consultation will include those with special competence in Catholic teaching. In all cases, the vice president for academic affairs should also 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 be made by the sponsoring academic department, organized faculty group or other College organization, in light of their academic expertise and professional responsibility for the College's mission.

Disclaimer

The invitation, sponsorship, or hosting of guest speakers, program and events does not imply that the College, or any of its organizations or units, approves or endorses the views or ideas expressed. This position must be made clear to the invitees. Disclaimers shall be routinely issued in promotional materials and/or at the speech or event, but the College also accepts the responsibilities for educating campus constituents and the public concerning the meaning of academic freedom and the consultative process through which a public event is review before being accepted for presentation.