



University of Colorado

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BOARD OF REGENTS

1 LAWS OF THE REGENTS

2 3 ARTICLE 1: UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LEGAL ORIGIN, MISSION, POLICY 4 FRAMEWORK AND ETHICAL CONDUCT

5 6 Part E: Freedom of Expression

7 8 1.E.1 Governing Principles

9
10 The University of Colorado is committed to the principle of freedom of expression
11 embodied in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article II,
12 Section 10 of Colorado's State Constitution. The University of Colorado has an
13 obligation to uphold the principle of freedom of expression. All members of the
14 university community, defined as the Regents of the University of Colorado, the officers
15 of the university and the administration, and the university's faculty, staff, and students,
16 have a responsibility to protect the university as a forum for the free expression of
17 ideas.

18
19 The University of Colorado is an institution of higher education and its campuses are
20 devoted to the pursuit of learning and the advancement of knowledge through the free
21 exchange of ideas. The free exchange of ideas includes not only the right to speak, but
22 the right to listen.

23
24 The university community must strictly adhere to the principle of viewpoint neutrality,
25 meaning that the university shall not prohibit or restrict speech based upon either the
26 substantive content of the speech or the message it conveys or because of the reaction
27 or opposition of others to such expression.

28
29 Speech related to political, academic, artistic, and social concern serve vital purposes,
30 both in society and within the university itself. Speech related to these topics is within
31 the boundaries of free expression, even when others construe that speech as wrong or
32 insensitive. The proper response to ideas that members of the university community
33 find offensive or unwarranted is to challenge those ideas through the exercise of reason
34 and debate, rather than attempt to interfere with or suppress them.

35 36 1.E.2 Scope of Regent Law

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38 This article of the Laws of the Regents addresses speech that occurs on University of
39 Colorado campuses, but not speech occurring in the course of research or in the
40 classroom instructional environment. Speech in research and teaching is governed by
41 Article 5, Part B and Article 7, Part C of the Laws of the Regents.

43 1.E.3 Definition of Free Expression

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45 Free expression encompasses verbal and written means by which individuals may
46 communicate ideas to others, including all forms of peaceful assembly, protests,
47 speaking verbally, holding signs, circulating petitions, and distributing written materials.
48 Free expression includes voter registration activities but does not include speech that is
49 primarily for a commercial purpose, including the promotion, sale, or distribution of any
50 product or service.

51
52 Free expression does not include speech or conduct that is not within the First
53 Amendment's protections, including speech or conduct that is a true threat, fraudulent,
54 harassing, obscene, defamatory, or otherwise unlawful.

56 1.E.4 Authority to Enact Lawful Regulations

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58 As described in Regent Policy 2 , the Board of Regents authorizes the president and
59 the chancellors to enact regulations in accordance with university policy and applicable
60 law to promote free expression on the University of Colorado campuses and property,
61 while simultaneously protecting the university environment, establishing lawful
62 standards of conduct, and preventing disruption of university activities.

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65 **History:**

- 66 • Adopted: TBD
- 67 • Revised: January 22, 1998; February 11, 2010; TBD
- 68 • Last Reviewed: TBD