

The University of Scranton Speaker Policy

The University of Scranton mission statement calls for the University to be “a community dedicated to the freedom of inquiry and personal development fundamental to the growth in wisdom and integrity of all who share its life.” In order to foster such an environment, University departments and members of the full-time faculty and staff are encouraged to invite speakers and to arrange for public events that reflect a broad range of perspectives. The University believes that discussion and debate are essential in educating men and women for others, who are knowledgeable of the University’s Catholic and Jesuit traditions and who are able to engage critically with the world. Invited speakers serve as catalysts for such discussion and debate and so help the University achieve its mission. Our openness to the free exchange of information and thoughtful consideration of divergent positions models for our students the best of the University’s intellectual tradition and social awareness.

The names of speakers and a brief description of every event must be submitted electronically for inclusion in the official university calendar at least one week prior to the event.

Invited speakers present their own views and do not speak for or on behalf of the University. The University endorses by its mission statement the teachings of the Catholic Church and the Society of Jesus. It also embraces the principles and practices of American universities, including the principles of academic freedom and free speech. Neither the use of University of Scranton facilities nor the sponsorship of guest speakers implies approval or endorsement of the views expressed by the speaker, the attendees, or the sponsoring organization.

An invitation to speak at the University does not include license for unlawful activity or activity that endangers or imminently threatens the safety of any member of the community or imminently threatens to damage any physical facility on campus, nor any activity that disrupts or obstructs the functions of the University or imminently threatens such disruption or obstruction. In the unlikely circumstance where a speaker might create a public safety concern, the Provost/VPAA may reschedule, relocate, or cancel the event. In the unlikely circumstance where a speaker might use the University as a platform to contradict its Catholic and Jesuit identity or the mission statement of the University, the Provost/VPAA may take steps to ensure that the University’s institutional perspective is represented. In either circumstance, the Provost shall provide a report to the Faculty Senate at its next meeting.

Endorsed University Governance Council, Approved President’s Cabinet, October 2011