

**Official Addendum – To replace “Demonstrations/Peaceful Protests Policy”** in The Hoot 2020-21 Course Catalog/Student Handbook on page 37.

## **DEMONSTRATION POLICY**

All currently enrolled students, undergraduate and graduate, have a right to demonstrate on College premises. The College reserves the right to limit, disallow or disband a demonstration which incites immediate, violent action or represents a violent action or actions that threaten or endanger the campus community, or if for any reason of time, place, or manner of behavior, the demonstration materially disrupts class work or other College business, involves substantial disorder, or invades the rights of others.

While the rights of students under the First Amendment to the Constitution, as applied by California law, will always be protected, demonstrations are generally subject to the following limits:

- Demonstrators entering campus buildings for the purpose of conducting orderly and peaceful demonstrations may not enter or occupy rooms or offices; obstruct entry, exit, or restrict the free movement of persons; block hallways, doorways, stairs or exits of college facilities; materially interrupt or interfere with college business functions; or remain in buildings after close of normal hours of operation.
- For safety and security reasons, demonstrators are not allowed to enter residence halls; private offices; spaces where classes or private meetings are being held or immediately scheduled to be held; libraries; facilities or areas containing valuable or sensitive materials, collections, equipment, records protected by law or by existing College policy such as educational records, student-related or personnel-related records, or financial records; security, utilities, or other facilities or services vital to the business functions of the College.
- Demonstrators shall not engage in activities that are illegal, which violate the rights of others, or that harm or threaten to harm a person or property. Further, any demonstration that violates College policy may be discontinued, either at the direction of the administrator (or their designee) of the College department administratively responsible for the space in which the demonstration is occurring, or at the direction of Otis College Campus Safety and Security team. Blocking entry to or free exit from buildings, impeding or obstructing the free movement of others, engaging in harassing behavior, or inciting immediate, violent action that represents a violent action or actions that threaten or endanger the campus community, to the campus community is prohibited under the Code of Student Conduct.

## **Counter Demonstrations**

A protest, demonstration, or event on campus may invite another form of protest. When these occasions arise, all student members of the College community have a right to expression consistent with these guidelines. In the interest of community safety and protection of rights, the College may designate a separate protest area for counter protestors. As with demonstrations, counter-demonstrations must not infringe upon the rights of others to engage in peaceful assembly, orderly protest, free exchange of ideas, or interfere with the rights of others to make use of campus facilities or attend College functions. This includes, but is not limited to, not damaging, defacing, marking, altering, or interfering with signs, tables or exhibits, or other items posted or displayed by others.

## **Ensuring a Productive Demonstration**

To help make sure that all participants stay safe, students, student groups, and student organizations planning to host demonstrations or rallies are strongly encouraged to follow these guidelines:

1. Reserve any outdoor space or indoor space using the reservation platform. Students must meet with the Director of Student Activities in order to complete this step and submit an official reservation.
2. Meet with Campus Safety and Security early in the planning process. This allows any potential safety issues to be addressed and for organizers to create safety and security procedures. At times, Campus Safety and Security officers may be present at a demonstration, protest, or event to ensure the safety of all participants and provide a more immediate response in the event of an emergency.
3. Representatives of the organization sponsoring a demonstration should meet with the Director of Student Activities or other authorized Student Affairs staff to discuss and develop necessary safety and security and crowd management procedures, to ensure that expectations, rights and responsibilities are mutually understood, and to provide the Director of Student Activities or other Student Affairs staff with sufficient information to evaluate the crowd management and safety and security plans regarding the demonstrations
4. When a campus demonstration is scheduled, organizers can expect the College personnel present (typically staff from Student Affairs and/or Campus Safety and Security) to help ensure that organizers' rights are protected and the college's regular and essential operations and activities continue. Such regular and essential operations and activities include, but are not limited to, classes, meetings, and the standard operation of college offices and facilities. As the college is concerned about the entire community and visitors, particular attention will be paid to managing crowds, maintaining

access to buildings, sidewalks, streets, etc., and personal safety for all.

5. Organizers are strongly encouraged to inform attendees of the Code of Conduct and consequences for failure to adhere to its expectations. To support overall demonstration coordination and safety for participants, organizers should have at least one representative present throughout the demonstration. Be aware that some participants may have physical challenges that require assistance. Disability Services can provide advice on accommodating participants with disabilities or mobility challenges, and can assist in connecting students to appropriate resources.

**NOTE: The Otis College campus is private property, and individuals who do not have specific College business are not permitted on campus and will be escorted off the premises.**