



Policy: **POLICY REGARDING DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS ON HURON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS**

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Approved by: **President**

1. OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 The right of students, faculty, and staff to express their views is the cornerstone of our academic community. We are committed to free and open debate, and the principle that the right to speak applies equally to everyone, regardless of their viewpoint. The right of freedom of expression at the University includes peaceful protests and orderly demonstrations. At the same time, just as every member of our community has this right, they also have a corresponding responsibility not to interfere with the rights of others to speak, study, teach, and learn.
- 1.2 Individual freedoms are protected by laws and legislature, including but not limited to Canadian law, Ontario Law and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- 1.3 Individual freedoms are not absolute, but are also constrained by law.
- 1.4 Huron has an obligation to provide a safe and secure working and learning environment, and it is the responsibility of individuals to respect policies and the law and not infringe upon others' rights.
- 1.5 The lands and buildings of Huron University are private property. The University reserves the right to control access to its campus, and to the use of its space and facilities. All users of University space are required to comply with all applicable University policies, federal and provincial statutes and municipal by-laws relating to private property, the rights of individuals and the University.
- 1.6 Huron University has policies and procedures that provide opportunities for students, faculty, staff and persons not affiliated with the University to apply to book indoor or outdoor space on Huron's campus to hold events.
- 1.7 This policy applies to situations in which Huron community members or those not affiliated with Huron enter onto Huron property and organize and hold unapproved events that have either not been approved pursuant to University policies or which exceed the scope or permission of any approved event, particularly higher risk events such as protests, marches, demonstrations, encampments or occupations, deemed Unapproved Events.
- 1.8 Huron reserves the right to grant, limit, and control access to its properties to those events approved by the University.
- 1.9 The University relies on existing policies and procedures, authorities, collective agreements,

other official instruments and laws to manage Unapproved Events. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Racism and Discrimination Prevention Policy
- Safe Disclosure Policy
- Non-Academic Student Code of Conduct Policy
- Trespass to Properties Act
- Criminal Code of Canada
- Crisis or Emergency Policy and Plan

1.10 Participants in any Unapproved Event(s) do so exclusively at their own risk as to illness, injury, death or other damages resulting from same, are acknowledging and assuming the risk of their activities and assumed to be accepting of said risks. Huron University will assume no liability or responsibility of any kind for any such illness, injury, death or other damages.

2. SCOPE

2.1 This Policy applies to all members of the Huron community, including employees, students, volunteers, guests, and contractors of Huron.

2.2 This Policy does not modify or supersede existing Huron policies.

2.3 This Policy is in addition to, and does not replace the rights and responsibilities of, an individual under law, employment contract or professional ethics.

3. DEFINITIONS AND PRINCIPLES

3.1 **Approved Events.** Events which have been applied for and approved by Huron University officials.

3.2 **Demonstrators.** A group of people coming together in an event of public expression

3.3. **Unapproved Events.** Events that have either not been approved pursuant to University policies or which exceed the scope or permission of any approved event, particularly higher risk events such as protests, marches, demonstrations, encampments or occupations

4. UNIVERSITY OBLIGATIONS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

4.1 Huron University respects our faculty, staff and students' rights to assemble and protest and is committed to free expression, including non-violent protest and dissent. At the same time, Huron is responsible for ensuring compliance with its policies, for taking reasonable steps to ensure the safety of all members of the University community and its visitors, to ensure the proper functioning of the University, for protecting and managing its property and for exercising good stewardship of public resources. As a result, activities on Huron's property must remain peaceful, lawful and safe.

4.2 Unapproved Events are not permitted, and are particularly problematic and will cause their participants to be exposed to various consequences if they:

- create a health and/or safety risk,
- interfere with the ability of students, faculty, and staff to learn, teach, research, work and live on our campuses,
- cause damage to the University buildings, grounds or other property,
- disrupt or impede other authorized University activities, or
- otherwise violate policies or the law.

4.3 The University's grounds and buildings are private property and, therefore, Unapproved Events on University grounds or in University buildings, are considered trespassing and the University may, at any time, invoke the remedies under the Trespass to Premises Act or any other applicable law.