**MIDDLESEX COLLEGE: Selected Policies**

From the Code of Student Conduct – link at - [https://www.course-catalog.com/mcc/C/2023-2024/content/students-rights-and-responsibilities/code-of-student-conduct/97](https://www.course-catalog.com/mcc/C/2023-2024/content/students-rights-and-responsibilities/code-of-student-conduct/97%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

Demonstration issues would violate #4 –

4. Obstruction or disruption of teaching, learning, research, administration, discipline procedures or other College authorized event. Disruptions of teaching and learning which may include tardiness, offensive language or behavior, noise and improper use of personal communication devices (e.g., cell phones, headphones, and laptops).

From the Policy Manual – link at - <https://middlesexcollege.edu/about/college-leadership/board-of-trustees/policy-manual/>

Policy 3.27.0 – Campus Demonstrations and Gatherings

MIDDLESEX COLLEGE BOARD POLICY Policy No. 3.27.0 Area: Administration Adopted: October 24, 2012 Reviewed: November 13, 2023 Description: Campus Demonstrations and Gatherings

**Middlesex College promotes intellectual inquiry and exchange in a respectful and civil manner. The safety of all participants is of utmost importance and the College will not approve any demonstration that will disrupt the mission or orderly operation of the College. Middlesex College does not tolerate disruptive behavior at any event.**

This policy is supplemented by and implemented by Procedure No. 3.27.0.

From the Procedure Manual – link at - <https://middlesexcollege.edu/about/college-leadership/board-of-trustees/procedures-manual/>

Relating to Board Policy 3.27.0 Campus Demonstrations and Gatherings

**I. General Considerations**

1. Middlesex County College reserves the right to determine the time, place, and manner of all demonstrations on campus, as well as to take steps to ensure public safety and the orderly continuation of College operations. Those decisions will be made with regard for constitutional and statutory provisions and judicial decisions.

2. For purposes of this Procedure, a “demonstration” is defined as a public display of a group or individual position for or against a person or cause.

3. Students or student organizations and individual faculty or staff speak only for themselves, not the College as an institution in their public expressions, demonstrations or protests.

4. For specific events which are open to the outside community, Middlesex County College invites the public to join the events and extends free speech and expression privileges during these events.

5. These procedures shall apply to all College owned and operated facilities and property.

**II. Approval for Demonstrations**

1. Any use of the College campus for demonstrations requires advance approval of the College.

2. Those wanting to stage a demonstration on College property must contact the Office of the Vice President of Institutional Advancement to review the location, time and manner of the demonstration. Before a demonstration may take place, written permission must be granted by the Vice President. In typical situations, a decision will be made within three business days of application.

3. The decision will be based upon safety considerations and the operational requirements of the College without regard to the person or cause that is the subject of the demonstration.

**III. Disruptive Behavior**

1. Middlesex County College does not allow disruptive behavior at events on its campus. “Disruption” is any action that significantly or substantially interferes with the rights of members of the academic community to go about their normal business or that otherwise interrupts the educational mission or ordinary operation of the College, such as interference with access to campus facilities and grounds, purposeful blocking of the view of others at an event; banners or other action that block the audience's view; noise or actions that disrupts the ability of the audience to hear.

2. If an event is disrupted by a group or individual, a representative of the College may request the action to stop or that the person or group causing the disruption leave the event or campus or move to a different approved location. Individuals or groups who disrupt an event or fail to leave when asked are in violation of the College's policy.  These violations of College policy may result in College disciplinary proceedings against students and may also result in arrest and criminal charges or disorderly persons charges.

**IV. Location, Time, and Duration of Events**

1. The College will designate clearly marked areas for demonstrations on the campus. Locations will be designated that provide access to large segments of the College community while avoiding those that will likely disrupt the academic and educational mission or orderly operation of the College.

2. If the event targets an issue at another approved College event that will occur simultaneously, the location of an approved demonstration will be as proximate to the other event as deemed appropriate. The following will be considered in determining the location, duration and time of an event.

a. Nature of and size of the event or events.

b. Public safety and security needs of the event or events.

c. Vehicular traffic.

d. Any other considerations set forth in this Policy.

**V. Hours of the events shall be limited to the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

**VI. Conduct at Demonstrations**

1. Demonstrators may not erect structures or tents on the College campus.

2. Demonstrators may not have open fires.

3. Demonstrations may not block access to any campus facility.

4. Demonstrations may not block roadways, sidewalks or parking areas.

5. Demonstrations utilizing pickets, large items, loud or amplified sound-making devices will be confined to the exterior of buildings so as not to disrupt regular and essential operation of the College or create health and safety issues. Sound amplification will only be allowed at the discretion of the College.

6. Demonstrations may not generate noise levels that disrupt other authorized activities.

7. Distribution of materials such as leaflets may not be confrontational.

8. Organizers must remove all items at the end of the demonstration, including but not limited to signs, equipment, printed materials, and chairs.

9. Demonstrators may not use intimidating tactics.

10. Demonstrators may not infringe upon the protected rights of others.

11. Demonstrators may not use unwelcome physical contact between demonstrators, counter demonstrators, the audience, the speaker or performers, or College officials. Force and violence is never permitted.

**VII. Violation of College Policy**

1. At any event, College authorities, including police, will endeavor to locate the leaders of a demonstration before taking any action in any situation of non-violent behavior, unless the disruption necessitates action to prevent (i) greater disturbance or confrontation, or, (ii) injury to persons or property, or (iii) acts of violence, threats of violence, or overcrowding.

2. If the College police have been asked to deal with the person or persons creating a nonviolent disturbance, they will ask the person or persons to stop the disruptive behavior prior to asking that the person or persons leave the event or take any other action.

3. In the event of a disruption in violation of College Policy, a statement will be read by an appropriate designated official of the College. The official statement follows:

Any demonstration that interferes with the freedom of members of the academic community to go about their normal business or interrupts the operations of the College constitutes a disruption and violates College Policy. It is necessary for me as a duly authorized officer of Middlesex County College charged with responsibility in this matter to inform you that your present action constitutes a disruption and is in violation of both state law and College Policy. I advise you that you must desist from this present disruption within ten minutes or be subject to prosecution under the laws of the state and the Code of Student Conduct, including possible suspension from the College. I further advise you that any agreement reached by an administrator while under duress or restraint will not be honored by the College.

4. In addition to punishment for violation of criminal law or disorderly persons offense, students who take action on campus in violation of this Policy, or are convicted of a criminal offense or disorderly person’s offense arising from incidents occurring on campus may be subject to disciplinary action for violations under the Middlesex County College Code of Student Conduct Policy.

5. In case of violations of this Policy, the College may bar any person from the College