



VCU

VCU Annual Report pursuant to § 23.1-401.1. Constitutionally protected speech; policies, materials, and reports; report

December 1, 2021

Overview

Virginia Commonwealth University is committed to creating an environment that fosters the exercise of protected speech and other expressive activity on university property while maintaining an atmosphere free of disruption to the mission of the university. It recognizes that the free expression of ideas and open inquiry are essential in fulfilling its academic mission by embracing rigorous open discourse, argumentation, speaking, listening, learning and the exploration of ideas. In support of maintaining such an environment, VCU incorporates and employs several policies and practices that protect free speech and support expressive activity in compliance with Va. Code § 23.1-401.1.

Institutional Policies

These policies and related materials include the following:

- [Free Speech](#) at VCU
- [Reservation and Use of Space Policy](#)
- [Reservation and Use of Space website](#)
- [Reservation and Use of Space FAQs](#)
- [Inclusion in mass email sent to all students](#)
- [Division of Student Affairs blog post](#)
- [Expressive activity e-mail sent to all student affairs staff](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Social Media Guidelines](#) for social media account administrators (references, and links to, the First Amendment)

Reporting Concerns

The university community is able to report concerns through two primary channels:

- Information on reporting concerns is referenced and linked on the [Free Speech](#) website. This information can also be found at: <https://acs.vcu.edu/integrity-and-compliance-office/ethics-and-compliance-program/reporting-concerns/>



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- For concerns regarding students, reports can be made through [the VCU Helpline](http://www.vcuhelpline.com) [www.vcuhelpline.com] or direct to the Division of Student Affairs: <https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?VirginiaCommonwealthUniv>

Certification

Certification that the institution has developed and communicated the materials outlined herein and [communication to the students has occurred](#). [Additional messaging](#) regarding expressive activity for this reporting period occurred to employees responsible for disciplining students. Communication to all employees regarding expectations exists through new hire onboarding, annual training, and in formal, university wide, policies readily available and accessible at www.policy.vcu.edu in concert with [quarterly updates of all policy changes](#).

Complaints:

No complaints as described in § 23.1-401.1(D)(3) were filed during this reporting period.

Reviewed and Certified by the Executive Director of Audit and Compliance Services, Karen Helderman.