



# Eastern Kentucky University

## Policy and Regulation Library

University Policy: 1.5.7

Responsible Office(s): University Counsel

Effective: May 14, 2025

Next Review Date: Spring 2030

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### Institutional Viewpoint Neutrality

#### Statement

Eastern Kentucky University affirms its commitment to fostering an environment that promotes intellectual diversity and upholds the free exchange of ideas. The University does not discriminate against individuals or groups based on their social or political viewpoints and values the contributions of all community members to robust dialogue and the free exchange of viewpoints to contribute to an intellectually diverse campus community. Nothing herein restricts or limits the rights of students, faculty, or staff to engage in personal expression or advocacy, as provided for in EKU's [Policy Governing Time, Place, and Manner of Demonstrations, Meetings, and Other Assemblies \(9.3.3\)](#) and Administrative Regulation [8.3.10 Campaigning & Political Activity of Employees](#). EKU supports the rights of all individuals within its community to participate in civil discourse in their personal capacities, ensuring that the University remains a space where a wide range of perspectives can be expressed and debated freely.

In support of those rights, the University shall not require any individual to endorse or condemn a specific ideology, political viewpoint, or social viewpoint to be eligible for hiring, contract renewal, tenure, promotion, admission or graduation.

#### Procedures

##### I. Institutional Statements

The President has the sole authority and responsibility to issue Official Statements on behalf of Eastern Kentucky University. The President may select a designee, including the University Spokesperson, to issue Official Statements as appropriate. The President shall abide by the principle of Institutional Neutrality, and shall not make any Official Statement on political, social or cultural matters that are not directly related to the operations, mission or legal obligations of the University.

## II. Statements on Behalf of the Board of Regents

As noted in the Bylaws of the University Board of Regents, all Official Statements on behalf of the Board shall be issued by the Board Chair. The Board and Board Chair shall abide by the principle of Institutional Neutrality, and shall not make any Official Statement on political, social or cultural matters that are not directly related to the operations, mission or legal obligations of the University.

### Definitions

- **Official Statement:** A formal communication issued on behalf of Eastern Kentucky University or the Board of Regents, intended to represent the institution's or Board's official position on a matter.
- **Institutional Neutrality:** The principle that the University refrains from taking positions on political, social, or cultural matters not directly related to its operations, mission, or legal obligations.
- **University Spokesperson:** An individual designated by the President or their designee to speak or issue communications on behalf of the University in an official capacity.

### Responsibilities

- **University President:**
  - Approves and issues official institutional statements; may designate spokespersons as appropriate.
- **Board of Regents Chair:**
  - Approves and issues official statements on behalf of the Board of Regents.

### Violations of the Policy

Failure to comply with this Policy may be in violation of Laws, Regulations, and Policies and will be handled through the normal University processes.

### Policy Adoption Review and Approval

#### Policy Issued

Date

Entity

Action