



POLICY STATEMENT 62 PUBLIC PRAYER

POLICY DIGEST

Monitoring Unit: Finance & Administration
Initially Issued: May 18, 1987

Freedom of Assembly
Clause

"Or the right of the people
peaceably to assemble...."

During the past two decades, Federal courts have been asked to answer questions growing out of the dilemma administrators face when they attempt to deal with conflicts resulting from interpretations and applications of these four clauses to public prayer on the campus of a public university. The resulting Case Law has established several useful principles which serve as the basis for establishing reasonable University policy governing public prayer. The most significant of these principles are on religious sects or p

- B. The administration of a state university has the legal right to establish reasonable time, manner regulations to govern the exercise of First Amendment freedoms on campus.

III. GENERAL POLICY

With due consideration to all the provisions of the First Amendment to the Constitution, and relying on the Case Law applicable to public universities, the following policy statements are established.

- A. Meetings of recognized student and/or employee organizations. Each organization shall make the decision as to whether or not prayer is to be a part of its meetings and/or events sponsored by the organization.
- B. Outside organizations using University facilities and premises. Subject to the provisions of policies established by the Board of Supervisors, outside organizations may use University facilities when such facilities are not needed for University purposes. Each organization shall make the decision as to whether or not prayer is to be a part of its meetings and/or events sponsored by the organization.
- C. Official University events and ceremonies. The University administrator responsible for planning and staging a University sponsored event shall make the decision as to the appropriateness of including prayer as a part of the program.

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