

**College of Liberal Arts
Resolution on Space Use & Reservation Policies**

Whereas: The University unilaterally changed the Protest and Demonstration sections of the Space Use & Reservation Policies in the summer, notifying the campus community on August 30, 2024, and then doing so again on October 4, 2024 with no notification, curtailing the “maximum freedom of expression” necessary for faculty, staff, and students to protest and demonstrate on a public campus. Whereas these new amendments cause undue burdens on the right to speak publicly.

Whereas: On September 10, 2024, the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) sent a cease-and-desist letter on behalf of the Faculty Staff Union regarding the implementation of the new Space Use Policy arguing that such changes are “an intrusion on our labor management relationship” requiring bargaining.

Whereas: This new policy recognizes only four locations (University Entrance, Campus Center Lawn, Skylight Par Plaza, Campus Center 1st Floor Terrace) as public assembly locations and bans the use of the following locations: “Interior spaces within academic buildings, administrative areas, libraries, computer labs, healthcare facilities, athletic facilities, and residence halls are restricted to their primary purpose and may not be used for protest or demonstration” (12).

Whereas: This new policy leaves it at the discretion of the university to determine whether protests and demonstrations are impromptu, i.e., due to events occurring within the span of the day (“spontaneous expression”) which can only lead to subjective assessment: “The University acknowledges that sometimes protest or demonstration by members of its community may be caused by immediate events for which the 5-day requirement is impractical. The University will work with individuals to comply with all other aspects of this policy, but exceptions to the advance notice requirement may be made when protests or demonstrations are caused by news or affairs coming into the public knowledge less than 24-hours previously” (13).

Whereas: This new policy fails to define how it will evaluate safety concerns regarding language: “If the use of flyers, banners, and signs creates safety concerns or impedes the participation of others, University officials will require the individuals carrying the posters, banners, or signs to move to a different location or remove their materials” (14).

Whereas: This new policy imposes undue and possibly “unlimited” financial obligations on persons and organizations protesting and demonstrating, which is determined solely at the discretion of the university: “Individuals must be prepared to compensate all university servicing departments for expenses resulting from protest or demonstration, including custodial services, traffic control, grounds maintenance, and event services arrangements. The chief of police or their designee, may exercise their public safety discretion to detail one or more police officers to attend and remain present for a protest, at which time services and any reasonable costs accrued shall be the

responsibility of the individual or individual(s) organizing and/or participating in the protest or demonstration or organization an event that triggers a counter protest. If unforeseen or extraordinary staff support needs arise from the protest, the university reserves the right to bill users of campus facilities whether or not such staffing support has been agreed to in advance” (14-15).

Whereas: This new policy fails to determine how employees or enforcement officials can distinguish between attire meant to conceal identities and attire used as safety precaution (“protective masks”) outside of subjective assessments: “Please note, attire that attempts to disguises or conceal the identity of the wearer that the institution may be deem as obstructing the enforcement of these rules or the law, or to intimidate, hinder, or interrupt a UMass Boston employee or enforcement official in the lawful performance of their duty is not permitted during protest or demonstration” (15).

Whereas: On October 8, 2024, the University deployed several armed police officers and unarmed security guards (including Chief of Police Stacey Lloyd) and several administrators (including the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Karen Ferrer-Muñiz, and Mickey Gallagher, Executive Director of Labor & Employee Relations) to a peaceful assembly sponsored by the Beacon Coalition for Action (which consists of faculty, staff, and students) for not filling in the “Protest and Demonstration Advanced Notification Form.” Whereas this vigil for the lives of Khaliifah Ibn Rayford Daniels 'Abdul-Qudduus (“Marcellus Williams”), Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, Aaron Bushnell, Matthew Nelson, and those murdered in conflicts throughout the world (including, but not limited to, Palestine, Lebanon, and Sudan) was asked to immediately disperse. Whereas there was no consideration as to the fact that there are new deaths and massacres each day that follow “spontaneous expression.” Whereas this demonstration at Skylight Park Plaza was met with intimidation and surveillance when the vigil refused to disband.

Whereas: On October 10, 2024, Kathleen Kirleis, Vice Chancellor Finance & Administration of the Space Use & Reservation Policies, stated that changes to the Space Use policy were grounded on the “marketplace of ideas.” Whereas this new policy transforms our public campus into an actual marketplace where speech will be taxed at the discretion of the university: “We basically started by really grounding the policy in affirming the marketplace of ideas where we were able to, which included and continues to include content-neutral time, place, and manner requirements that provide for us to ensure the safety of the campus community, to be able to have continuity of instructional activities as well as university business, and promote the exchange and discussion of ideas.”

And Whereas: The University has not responded to the cease-and-desist letters issued by the Faculty Staff Union (FSU), Classified Staff Union (CSU), and Professional Staff Union (PSU) or the letter from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) condemning the new policy as a violation of free speech rights.

Be it resolved that the College of Liberal Arts requests that the recent and unilateral changes to the Space Use & Reservation Policies be immediately rescinded and that the “Protest and

Demonstration Advanced Notification Form” be suspended until bargaining and meaningful dialogue is had with faculty, staff, and students.

**College of Liberal Arts
Resolution on the University Dining Club (UDC)**

Whereas: The University Club has a long history at the University of Massachusetts Boston, being first founded in 1970 as the Faculty Club for both faculty and professional staff. In November 1990, the dining club was unofficially renamed the “University Club” after a vote to extend membership to classified staff. While the University Dining Club has existed in many spaces throughout the year, such as the Castle at Park Plaza, the dining room on the third floor of McCormack Hall, and the eleventh floor of Healey Library, it would eventually find a home on the second floor of the Campus Center (Room 2550A and 2550B).

Whereas: The COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in the University moving to a remote modality starting in March 2020 and lasting throughout the entire 2020-2021 academic year, which effectively shuttered the University Dining Club.

Whereas: The COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in the University unilaterally closing the University Dining Club after the campus re-opened in Fall 2021 to establish a testing and vaccination center as noted by Diane D’Arrigo, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Campus Services, on July 29, 2021: “The Dining Commons in the East Residence Hall will be back in full operation on September 1st – featuring the Mongolian Grill stir fry, pizza, pasta, traditional favorite entrees, the grill, vegan offerings, expansive self-serve fruit and salad bar as well as our allergy friendly Simple Servings Station. This beautiful dining facility provides a wonderful alternative for those who frequented the University Dining Club which has been transformed to a COVID testing and vaccination center for the campus.”

Whereas: The COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in the University Dining Club being used for a Vaccine Booster Clinic in Spring 2022, as noted by Robert Pomales, Executive Director of University Health Services, on January 18, 2022: “University Health Services is offering booster doses of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.... Clinic Location and Schedule Location: Campus Center, 2nd floor, University Dining Club Schedule: January 18 to January 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.”

Whereas: The Vaccine Booster Clinic was discontinued after Fall 2022, leaving the University Dining Club as a rental space (without amenities, such as napkins, utensils, or water) instead of a dining space with food service for faculty, staff, and graduate students.

Whereas: In May 2023, a petition was launched requesting the Space Planning and Capital Expenditure (SPACE) Committee listen to demands to re-open the former University Dining Room for dining during working hours (Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm). This petition was signed by over two hundred faculty and staff members.

Whereas: The University Club was partially reopened without dining services, as noted by Provost Joseph Berger on September 11, 2023: “The University Club, located in the Campus Center, 2nd floor, will open September 11 for use as a lunchtime lounge and gathering space. The venue will open to faculty, staff, and graduate students Monday–Friday from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. To gain

access to the space, please be prepared to show your BeaconCard. You are welcome to bring your lunch or order from one of the dining venues on campus.” Notably, these hours are at a time that many faculty members teach, preventing them from utilizing the space.

Whereas: In December 2023, a small committee was launched to assess the interest and financial feasibility of establishing a University Dining Club (UDC). Whereas the University Dining Club (UDC) Committee has sent out surveys on July 17, 2024 and September 20, 2024 to gather data leaving the University without a fully functioning space to develop relationships across the campus or host visiting staff and faculty for job interviews.

Be it resolved that the College of Liberal Arts requests that the University Dining Club (UDC) reopen immediately with full dining services during working hours (Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm).

College of Liberal Arts Resolution on Space Reservations

Whereas: The current Space Use & Reservation Policies require faculty and departments to rent space on campus for events and are even charged more for events that have outside community members (“external groups”) participating or in attendance.

Whereas: The monetary costs of space reservation prevent faculty and departments from planning or hosting events within the college, around the campus, or with community partners.

Whereas: The University has stated goals for enhancing community partnership and yet charges increased costs for working with the local community.

Whereas: The budget of departments or funds of faculty members are being transferred between parts of the University.

Whereas: It is reasonable that faculty and department are still charged for catering services and/or for compensation regarding event staff who work outside of their regular business hours, including, but not limited to, the setup crew and event maintainer.

Be it resolved that the College of Liberal Arts requests that costs associated with space reservations be put under review, particularly under the feasibility of a no-cost model.