

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Interoffice Communication

DATE: 16 October 2001

TO: Christie Pope, President, Faculty Senate
Rex Heer, President, P&S Council
Andrew Tofilon, President, Government of the Study Body
Debbie Martinez, President, Graduate Student Senate

FROM: Gregory L. Geoffroy
President

RE: "Use of Campus Facilities" Policy

I am very pleased to ask for your review and comments on the enclosed copy of a revised "Use of Campus Facilities" Policy that marks a liberalization of our current policy. I am also enclosing a copy of the existing policy from the *ISU Student Handbook* and a summary that compares the current policy with the proposed new policy.

The revised policy deals with non-commercial use of space, and provides for the primacy of space for our missions of learning, discovery, and engagement. Otherwise, we wish to make university grounds and facilities open to public access; it is part of our commitment to being a place that cherishes the free exchange of ideas and differing points of view. I believe the requirements for use of campus space are simple, clear, and appropriate.

If you would like more information about the proposed changes, please call Paul Tanaka, Director of University Legal Services. He is available to meet with you and your constituents to explain the proposed changes. Please send me your comments on the proposed revision prior to November 1, 2001.

I look forward to hearing from you

Attachments

xc: President's Cabinet

Proposed ISU Facility Use Rules for the Student Information Handbook

The proposed changes in facility use rules in Iowa State University's *Student Information Handbook* are of primary interest to students; however, the proposal takes a different approach to campus use and access that will affect faculty, staff and the general public as well. We invite comments on the Proposal. Comments may be sent to: legalservices@mai.adp.iastate.edu, or University Legal Services, 321 Beardshear Hall.

The proposal deals with access to and use of university grounds and facilities by students and others for non-commercial purposes. It reverses the current presumption that all campus grounds and facilities are closed to uses other than those that are university sanctioned or approved. The changes are intended to provide students, faculty, staff and the public greater access to use of university facilities without requiring permission. At the same time, it is the purpose of the policy that broader access and use will not interfere with the university's educational, research and service missions.

The following table compares current policy (which may be found in the *Student Information Handbook* at Pages 52 and 53, <http://www.dso.iastate.edu/handbook/RegulationsOrganizations.pdf>) and the proposed policy. If the changes are adopted, other university policies will be amended to be consistent.

	Current Policy	Proposed Policy
Access to Campus and Facilities	Deals only with use for large events and requires approval for use except at public forum areas.	While priority is reserved for accomplishment of its teaching, research and service missions, most campus grounds and facilities are otherwise generally open for public use. The proposed policy defines specialized areas of the campus that require permission to enter.
When Approval is required	<p><i>Public Forum Areas:</i> May be used on first come, first serve basis.</p> <p><i>Outdoors:</i> Events (not at public forum areas) require approval.</p> <p><i>Indoors:</i> Events require approval.</p>	<p><i>Public Forum Areas:</i> Same as current policy.</p> <p><i>Outdoors:</i> Provides a number of options for use without approval. Large events meeting certain criteria may take place by filing a notice only. Those that do not meet the criteria require approval through the Student Activities Center.</p> <p><i>Indoors:</i> Provides that small groups of students may use indoor atria and similar areas for organized activity without permission. Other activities require approval through the Student Activities Center.</p>

	Current Policy	Proposed Policy
Criteria for Approval of Events	No criteria stated for approval of events	Criteria are included, and specifically state that evaluation is content neutral.
General Standards for Use of Facilities	No standards defined in facilities use policy of <i>Student Information Handbook</i> .	Defines general standards for use to avoid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption; • Damage to facilities; • Interference with others' use.
Displays and Signs	<p><i>At Events:</i> Not discussed in current policy</p> <p><i>Bulletin Boards:</i> Limited to university departments and recognized organizations.</p> <p><i>Buildings and Grounds:</i> Displays may not be fixed to buildings, facilities, fixtures and vegetation without permission. Organizations may use signboards provided for advertising events.</p>	<p><i>At Events:</i> Defines permissible use of signs.</p> <p><i>Bulletin Boards:</i> Not limited to university departments and recognized organizations. Retains current time limits on posting, but adds a size limitation to reduce conflicts between users.</p> <p><i>Buildings and Grounds:</i> Same as current policy.</p>
Renting of Space	Organizations and groups may rent facilities for use.	Same as current policy.