

## **Dissent and Assembly Policy - Addendum to Student Handbook September 2024**

### ***Dissent***

By its very nature, the college is a place where diversity of thought is embraced, civility is cultivated, and freedom of speech is protected through ideas and opinions being formulated and exchanged. Members of the college community have a right to freely express their positions and to be engaged in constructive dialogue with others whether their opinion assents to or dissents from existing situations on campus or in society,

To ensure freedom is maintained, expressions of assent or dissent cannot be permitted to infringe on the rights of the members of the campus community – not only their freedom to express positions, but their freedom to engage in other legitimate activities. Actual or threatened coercion or violence are abhorrent in a college because they can destroy those rights and freedoms which are necessary for the existence of the college and its educational purpose..

### ***Assembly***

Defiance College student organizations, groups of Defiance College students that do not hold official organizational status and individual Defiance College students may assemble with the agreed upon understanding that participants create an environment that shows care and consideration for the institution. They must respect those who work at and attend Defiance College ensuring their ability to pursue their work and/or academic endeavors. To this end, Defiance College expects all groups or individuals who assemble to:

1. Gather in such a fashion as to refrain from physically hindering entrances to, exits from, or passageways with any College building or other structure or hinder the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic on or through campus.
2. Manage volume of noise that ensures that members of the campus community can carry on their normal activities.
3. Ensure the physical safety of all members of the campus community and care for campus property.
4. Enter a private office only when invited, and then not in excess of the number of designated occupants or invited by the occupant. Pass through reception areas leading to a private office must not be obstructed.
5. Keep to normal closing times for each building unless other arrangements are approved by the Dean of Students.
6. Follow the laws of the City of Defiance as much of the campus is contiguous to public and privately owned properties.

Individuals who assemble outside the agreed upon policies and understanding articulated above may be subject to the appropriate college judicial process and face possible disciplinary and/or legal sanctions.