I. PURPOSE

The University of North Carolina Wilmington is a community which embraces diversity. The university supports activities that encourage tolerance, understanding, respect and appreciation for different points of view. The U.S. Constitution supports freedom of expression as a fundamental right. This founding principle requires not our individual agreement with contrary opinions and positions, but our support and commitment to the protection of every individual’s right to express those opinions and positions. In pursuit of this goal, the university aspires to protect its educational mission while also protecting the first amendment right to free speech and expression. The granting of this privilege does not imply any university endorsement or support for the views expressed by the individual or group.

II. POLICY

The following policy provides standards and guidelines necessary to maintain the orderly and essential operation of the university. Any individual or group who violates the policy may lose all privileges to assemble on campus in the future.

III. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

A. Non-university sponsored individuals and groups may be authorized to assemble and speak on campus between September first and November thirtieth, and between February first and April thirtieth, and additional dates may be unavailable due to the scheduling of certain campus events.

B. Any non-university sponsored individual or group (hereafter referred to as “speaker”) seeking the opportunity to speak on campus must register with the Office of the Dean of Students at least 2 business days prior to any activity.
C. The speaker will be assigned to a specific area – either in front of Wagoner Dining Hall or in the outdoor Amphitheatre - and granted permission to assemble for four hours (based upon the speaker’s request and the availability of the space). On the day of the authorized event, the speaker may request permission from the Associate Dean of Students to speak for up to two additional hours, for a total assembly time of no more than six hours on any particular day. Such requests will be granted, provided there is no other reservation for the space and there is no violation of the policy as described in paragraph III (F) below.

D. The speaker will be required to have and submit upon request a copy of the registration approved by the Office of the Dean of Students.

E. The speaker will not under any circumstances be permitted to either sell items or solicit funds, nor use any means of sound amplification.

F. The speaker will be allowed to continue to assemble for the full duration of time approved on the registration unless:

1. University activity or operations are disrupted, or the speaker is impeding the flow of traffic of passersby, or

2. University property is being damaged, or

3. Unlawful behavior on the part of the speaker, or

4. An imminent threat is posed to the physical safety of the speaker, a visitor, or a member of the university community,

5. The speaker incites a breach of peace.

G. Speakers who wish to distribute written information must indicate so on their registration forms and may not distribute materials in a way that interferes with the normal flow of passersby or causes litter.

H. If the UNCW Police Department and/or Office of the Dean of Students determine that a registered speaker is in violation of this policy, the speaker will be asked to leave campus and may be escorted from campus by the University Police.