

The draft policy on Expressive Activity that the Board of Trustees will soon vote on goes far beyond state law regulating “Speech and Expression on Campus” at public institutions of higher education. The draft policy threatens students with expulsion. It threatens faculty with suspension or termination. It sharply limits a range of activities that should be normal parts of campus life: speaking, using chalk, writing on vertical surfaces, projecting images, and standing on the grass.

Learning happens in classrooms, but it does not happen **only** in classrooms. In the last three months, I have learned so much from students who are protesting the war in Gaza. I have learned about the importance of working together. I have learned about the students’ hopes and fears for the future. I have learned why they care so much about a genocide that is happening thousands of miles away.

The First Amendment and the laws of this state require that all members and guests of IU be allowed to speak freely, without being hidden, or canceled, or shouted over. But these laws are not being applied equally. On April 27th, the day I was arrested here in Dunn Meadow, the state police had already decided to arrest two people—one Black and one Palestinian—regardless of anything they were saying or doing. I was assaulted and cited for criminal trespass **at the place where I work** for the horrible crimes of standing in the grass and holding hands with my students because I didn’t want them to be shot.

Where is the accountability for the police and administrators who violated MY rights? The draft policy on Expressive Activity says that it’s necessary because “Violations... can result in health, safety, and security concerns, and damage to University property.” I have worried for years that a student or colleague would bring a gun to campus, but I never imagined that IUPD and the Indiana State Police would be the ones threatening my life. They are the ones causing safety and security concerns, not students.

I am not opposed to policies, but they must be reasonable. They must be consistent with the law. They must be applied equally. This is what the First Amendment requires. State law requires the university to inform all members of the community about IC 21-39-8 and IC 21-39.5, but it does not require the Board of Trustees to place even more restrictions on protestors. The laws and policies we already have are sufficient.

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