

This new policy aims not to protect free speech, but to neutralize it. The policy's clear goal is to create a campus in which any expression that even moderately disrupts regular business cannot occur. The authors of this policy know the history of social movements in this country and elsewhere. They know that student organizing has been a central pillar of movements toward greater equality for decades, and this is exactly why they want to squash it. Combined with the so-called 'intellectual diversity' bill recently passed by the state legislature, which intends to censure faculty for teaching anything that might be labeled 'DEI,' we can imagine a campus in which critical thought has been forced entirely underground. This policy, in the name of free speech, is just part of a larger effort to plunge our country's educational spaces into darkness and silence at a time when we need to be speaking up. It is no coincidence that this policy has been drafted in the face of massive student and faculty movements, those supporting academic laborers, and those trying to end IU's complicity in an ongoing U.S.-funded genocide. This is part of a larger plan to turn IU into a machine for state propaganda, in which the only expressive activity allowed is obedience.

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