

LUMS Policy on Public Speech on Campus

Preamble

Freedom of speech, academic freedom, freedom of expression, of conscience and of association are fundamental values at LUMS. They are exercised in a spirit of vigorous and respectful intellectual debate, in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Pakistan and applicable international human rights law.

The policy statement seeks to clarify LUMS' position on public speech on campus, and in particular on guest speakers and other participants invited on campus for a variety of events.

Statement of Policy

LUMS shall not allow speech which publicly provokes discrimination against, or has the foreseeable effect of creating an offensive, demeaning, intimidating or hostile environment for, a person or a group of persons on the grounds of their origin, religion, nationality, ethnic group, social status, gender, sexual orientation or disability, among others.

LUMS shall not allow defamatory speech, oral or written.

LUMS shall not allow invasion of privacy, be it as public disclosure of private facts or as false light claims, unless it pertains to a matter of public concern.

LUMS shall not allow expressions which amount to criminal or severe harassment.

LUMS shall not allow speech which promotes actual violence or harm and creates a security threat; which contains “fighting words” or true threats.

Implementation of Policy

Invitations to speakers are the responsibility of patrons of societies (in case the invitation is on behalf of a student group) or of the relevant LUMS representative (in all other cases). It is the responsibility of the Patron / relevant LUMS representative to ensure that permission has been sought for inviting any potentially controversial speakers from the Public Speech Committee, prior to issuing an invitation and that invited speakers have been informed of the LUMS Public Speech Policy. For speakers invited by faculty, it is important that the relevant Department Chairs / Deans have been informed and their input has been taken before issuing invitations. It is also the patron / LUMS representative's responsibility to ensure all administrative arrangements for the function are completed prior to any event.

In the event an objection is raised by a member of the LUMS community as to the choice of one or several participants in a public event to be held on campus, the Public Speech Committee will evaluate the objection on the basis of available factual evidence and the case made by the party raising the objection. The Committee will make a binding decision as to the participation of the said individual(s).

The Committee is the sole body at LUMS empowered to ban a speaker on campus.

All events involving public speakers are to be made known to the LUMS community at least four days prior to the event.

In case a speaker or an event is scheduled *in extremis* (without the four days' notice) as determined by the organising party, the speaker(s) must be vetted directly by the Public Speech Committee.

Composition of the Public Speech Committee

The Committee is composed of seven members:

- The Dean of Student Affairs, *ex officio*,
- One faculty member of each of the four Schools, appointed by their respective Dean,
- Two members of the Student body (one undergraduate and one graduate), appointed by the Student Council.

Annexes:

Definitions.

For the purpose of this policy,

- Speech is defined as an expressive conduct, which may be oral, written, pictorial or use other expressive means to convey an idea.
- As per the Pakistan Defamation Ordinance 2002, a defamatory act is defined as “any wrongful act or publication or circulation of a false statement or representation made orally or in written or visual form which injures the reputation of a person, tends to lower him in the estimation of others or tends to reduce him to ridicule, unjust criticism, dislike, contempt or hatred”.
- Invasion of privacy is defined as the intrusion into the life of another without just cause.
- “False light” is defined as presenting a person in a way which leaves an inaccurate or prejudicial impression about that person; the portrayal must be highly offensive to a reasonable person.
- “Fighting words” are defined as those which by their very utterance inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace.
- A true threat is constituted if a reasonable person would foresee that the statement would be a serious expression of intent to harm or assault.

Committee bylaws:

- The Committee meets on an *ad hoc* basis, whenever an objection against a particular speaker is raised.
- It is empowered to interview relevant individuals, or request more information.
- The Convener of the Committee is the Dean of Student Affairs.
- The quorum is set at 5 members.
- Decisions are taken by a majority vote, with an effort to reach unanimity.
- In case of equality of votes, the decisive vote is cast by the Convener.
- Detailed minutes will be taken at every committee meeting.