



*Alisher Navoi'i Tashkent State University
of the Uzbek Language and Literature*

*Legal Services
Governance & Legal*

TSUULL External Speakers Policy

May, 2022

Updated 2023

TSUULL Contents

Introduction and Purpose.....	2
Legal Framework.....	3
Procedure for Approval of Events (Including "Closed Events") on and off Campus.....	4
Approved Speakers List.....	5
Working with the Students' Union.....	6
Speakers at Events Booked by External Individuals or Organizations.....	6
Visiting Lecturers.....	6
Breach of the Policy.....	7
Review and Monitoring.....	7
External Policy.....	9

1. Introduction and Purpose

1.1 The university supports the principle of freedom of speech and expression within the bounds of the law. However, as open and uncensored debates may involve external speakers, it is essential to establish a policy to manage such requests appropriately.

1.2 Inviting external speakers enables staff and students to encounter diverse viewpoints, challenge existing beliefs, and develop their own opinions. While most speakers are uncontroversial, some may express contentious or even offensive views, potentially leading to division on campus.

1.3 The university aims to strike a balance between upholding freedom of speech, maintaining campus harmony, ensuring safety, and complying with relevant legislation. This policy outlines how this balance can be achieved.

1.4 When any person (e.g., staff or student) or organization (including constituent societies, clubs, or associations of the students' union) wishes to hold a meeting or event for the expression of views on university-controlled premises or host a speaker at university-affiliated, funded, or branded events on or off-campus, the university or students' union shall not unreasonably refuse consent. However, the university reserves the right to refuse consent if the views breach this policy or the Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom (FoE) policy or for other valid reasons. All requests will be considered in line with this policy.

1.5 The Chief Operating Officer (or their nominated Deputy) will oversee the implementation of this policy.

2. Legal Framework

2.1 While the law promotes and protects freedom of speech and debate, it imposes limits to ensure compliance with the law, both criminal and civil. Freedom of speech does not extend to criminal activities during speeches, such

as inciting racial or religious hatred, supporting proscribed terrorist organizations, or committing defamation. It is important to note that freedom of speech does not guarantee freedom from offense.

2.2 Civil law, including defamation, equality, discrimination, health and safety, and data protection laws, may also apply to external speaker events. However, expressing objectionable or offensive views is generally not prohibited.

3. Procedure for Approval of Events (Including "Closed Events") on and off Campus

3.1 When anyone subject to this policy wishes to hold a meeting or event on university-controlled premises or host a speaker at university-affiliated events on or off-campus, they must complete the External Speaker Request Form, providing at least 28 days' notice. Exceptions may be considered, but earlier notice is preferred. Any changes to the event must be communicated at least 5 working days in advance.

3.2 Upon receiving the External Speaker Request Form, the university will conduct a review of the legal context relevant to the activity. Most requests will be straightforward, but some may require further consideration, including assessing the risk of contravening the law or causing adverse consequences. Advice may be sought from relevant colleagues or agencies.

3.3 Consent may be reasonably refused if:

3.3.1 The views likely to be expressed infringe civil or human rights, incite unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimization, or other activities contrary to the law.

3.3.2 The views constitute extremist views (violent or non-violent), risk drawing individuals into terrorism, are shared by terrorist or proscribed groups, or promote illegal/proscribed organizations or purposes.

3.3.3 The speaker's intention is to incite breaches of the law or breaches of the peace, jeopardize public safety, compromise the university's compliance with law guidance, or threaten public safety, prevention of disorder, or unlawful acts.

3.3.4 It is in the interests of public safety, prevention of disorder, crime, or unlawful acts, or protection of individuals lawfully on university-controlled premises or affiliated organizations.

3.3.5 The proposed activity is likely to create an environment of harassment, intimidation, verbal abuse, or violence based on race, religion, belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability, or age. The university will review past activity and any relevant convictions in assessing this.

3.4 The list in 3.3 is not exhaustive, and the university reserves the right to refuse consent with reasonable grounds.

3.5 Gender segregation is not permitted in academic meetings, events, lectures, or meetings for students, the public, or university employees, except where exemptions apply according to the law.

3.6 If a planned event or speaker poses a higher risk, the university may seek input internally and externally, form a working group, or engage with campus groups for further consideration.

3.7 Mitigating actions may be considered to reduce risks, such as providing stewards, changing the location or time, or requiring an independent Chair for balanced debate.

3.8 If the university deems its powers insufficient to prevent serious disorder, it may decline to permit the event and consult the police for appropriate safeguards or conditions.

3.9 The university will communicate its decision on event requests within 7 working days, including any conditions. Speakers may be included on an Approved List of External Speakers.

3.10 Consent may be withheld for requests not following this policy or specified timescales.

3.11 Appeals against decisions can be made to the university's Ethics Committee within seven days of the decision, which will consider and respond within seven days.

3.12 Events/speakers must not be advertised until written approval is received.

3.13 No person other than the approved speaker may deliver a presentation or speech at the event without express permission from the university.

4. Approved Speakers List

4.1 The university will maintain an Approved List of External Speakers and subjects, reviewed annually by the Chief Operating Officer and Head of Security.

4.2 Approved speakers may be included on the list during the approval process.

4.3 The Approved List will be maintained by the Head of Security or their deputy.

4.4 Further requests for speakers on the Approved List may expedite approval.

5. Working with the Students' Union

5.1 TSUULL Students' Union has an external speakers policy that considers requests based on factors listed in clause 3.3. If additional information is required, the request may be referred to the university's Head of Security, who will follow this policy.

5.2 The university may seek input from the students' union for controversial speakers of interest to student societies.

5.3 The university and students' union will collaborate to maintain accurate records of registered and approved student societies.

5.4 Joint scenario planning and guidelines for sensitive and controversial issues

5.5 The university will seek input from the students' union, especially for particularly controversial speakers when their presence on campus may interest student societies.

5.6 The university and the students' union will collaborate to ensure accurate knowledge of registered and approved student societies.

5.7 The university and the students' union will jointly develop guidelines for handling sensitive and controversial issues. The students' union's policies are attached in Appendix A.

6 Speakers at Events Booked by External Individuals or Organizations

6.1 If the university receives a request from an external organization to use its facilities for an event (commercial or non-commercial), any speakers associated with the event must adhere to the law as outlined in this policy.

6.2 The university will ensure that those managing such bookings are aware of and follow this policy.

6.3 Please note that, unless the university grants express permission, only the notified and approved speaker is allowed to deliver a presentation or speech at the event. This includes event attendees.

7 Visiting Lecturers

Approval of visiting lecturers or their lecture content can be granted by the relevant faculty without following this policy. However, if concerns arise as outlined in this policy regarding the lecturer's identity or lecture content, the external speaker request form should be completed.

8 Breach of the Policy

Individuals or external organizations found in breach of the External Speakers Policy may face penalties, such as the removal of privileges, barring from future bookings of university facilities, or disciplinary proceedings for DMU employees and students. Breaches of criminal law may be reported to the police.

9 Review and Monitoring

9.1 This policy will undergo periodic review to ensure it remains relevant, effective, and up-to-date. Recommended changes will be referred to the University Board for consideration.

9.2 The university will record the number of external speaker requests, including both accepted and rejected requests. This information, along with general feedback on policy operations, will be reported annually to the Board by the university's Head of Security.

9.3 The Head of Security will maintain a record of Approved Speakers, as outlined in paragraph 4 of this policy.

EXTERNAL SPEAKERS POLICY

The Union acknowledges

- Societies must inform the Union of any events involving external speakers, defined as individuals or organizations not part of the Union or the University, following these procedures.
- Publicizing events with external speakers is prohibited until the speaker's clearance through the appropriate procedures outlined in this policy.
- The Union retains the right to cancel or prohibit any event with an external speaker if the prescribed procedures are not adhered to or if relevant health, safety, and security requirements cannot be met.
- The Union has the authority to decline a platform to individuals and groups promoting racism and/or fascism. Such cases will be addressed under the TSUULL Against Hate policy through established channels. The Trustee Board will determine processes for identifying individuals and groups falling within the TSUULL Against Hate policy, and their events will automatically not be approved.

The Union upholds

- Freedom of expression and speech as fundamental human rights protected by the law.
- Open debate is integral to academic freedom, student idea development, and understanding, safeguarded by an act of parliament concerning freedom of speech and academic freedom on campus.
- Student well-being is at the core of the Union's policies and practices.
- Balancing the freedom to express views with the need to protect students and communities from harm when controversial speakers are involved is essential.
- In cases where these rights may conflict concerning controversial speakers, DSU commits to collaborative efforts to make informed judgments about the organization(s) or individual(s) involved, while meeting legal obligations.

The Union instructs

- The Chair of the Society organizing any event is responsible for the activities within their Society's events.
- The Society Committee organizing the event should initially research the speakers. Repeated requests for speakers that contradict Union policy may lead to referral to the Union's Disciplinary Procedure for Members.

- All speakers must comply with the law and the University's and Union's various policies, including that:

They must not incite hatred, violence, or encourage breaking the law. o They are not allowed to endorse, glorify, or support any acts of terrorism, including individuals, groups, or organizations supporting such acts.

They must avoid spreading hatred and intolerance, thus disrupting social and community harmony, while engaging in positive debate and challenge without insulting other faiths or groups

Enforced segregation of events is prohibited unless explicitly approved by the University.

- The Union's external speaker request form must include: o Expected number of attendees. o Confirmation of whether the event is exclusively for members, by invitation, or open to the general public. o Confirmation of any political or religious affiliations of external speakers. o Disclosure of any past controversy related to the speaker or topic. o Confirmation if the event and speaker are likely to attract media interest, with reasons. • Failure to provide complete speaker details may result in event cancellation and potential Union disciplinary action.

- Upon receiving the form, Volunteer and Societies staff will check all speakers on Google for relevant information, including links to the most pertinent information about the speaker. • Speakers requiring further examination will be referred to the Vice President Spirituality, Student Activities, and Head of Security at TSUULL.

Referred Speakers

- Events with referred speakers will undergo investigation by the Vice President Student Activities on behalf of the Trustee Board.
- A brief investigation will be conducted into the speaker and the event, including input from the student society involved in the booking and various concerned student groups, University officials, and external bodies. on presented risks. o Fully permitting the event with the external speaker to
- When considering regulatory steps to mitigate risks, potential risks arising from these measures (e.g., a sense of oppression from security at the door) should be considered.
- Recommendations will be forwarded to the Vice President Student Activities, who will communicate decisions routinely to the Trustee Board. Disagreements

with the decision by Trustee Board members may lead to the calling of an extraordinary meeting.

- If the involved society disagrees with the decision, they have the right to appeal, with the President considering the appeal.
- Students or student groups disagreeing with the decision may submit a complaint following the standard process, with the option to consider the complaint an appeal.
- An annual report on referred speakers will be prepared by the Vice President Student Activities for Trustee Board consideration.