



Moving Forward From March 13 Speaker Event

President's Office <presidentsoffice@worchester.edu>
To: STUDENTS@listserv.worcester.edu

Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 6:14 PM

Dear Worcester State Students, Faculty and Staff,

In the wake of the speaker event held on March 13, and in response to several communications received by senior administration in the days that followed, I write to share with the campus what was learned about the event and how we plan to move forward with events – both large and small, closed or open to the campus and community – in the future.

Worcester State University stands firm in its commitment to academic freedom and to fostering an environment in which diverse perspectives can be shared in a safe and respectful manner. To that end, and with an eye toward student, faculty and staff well-being, we are in the process of reviewing and updating the checklists which all campus events must complete prior to their event, as well as working with the appropriate parties to ensure these processes are followed.

In the meantime, I'll note that the event on March 13 failed to adhere to some of our best practices with respect to WSU event sponsorship. To be clear, it is my expectation that the following procedures will be followed whenever we host an event on campus:

- 1) Academic department sponsors must inform their dean of the event at least three to four weeks before it occurs.
- 2) Administrators/staff leading events should be sure their immediate supervisor and area vice president are aware, as soon as event planning is underway.
- 3) A statement must be made at the beginning of every event regarding "ground rules" relating to cell phone usage and attempts to disrupt events. See attachment for the statement.
- 4) The lead sponsor - whether department or student organization, faculty member, or administrator - must indicate they are present at the event and remain visible, ideally offering a statement at the beginning to introduce the program and/or speaker.

This process is fluid and we will share updates with the campus community as needed.

In closing, I want to remind everyone that Worcester State is a public, liberal arts university. As such, our mission is to prepare students to engage with a diverse workforce and community. We expect that when members of the Worcester State community interact with one another they will uphold the University's core values of academic excellence, engaged citizenship, the open exchange of ideas, diversity and inclusion, and civility and integrity. On these values, we must all stand firm and not allow any topic, artifact or individual undermine them.

Sincerely,

Barry M. Maloney
President

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Statement to be read before each WSU-sponsored event.pdf

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