

## **CODE OF PRACTICE RELATING TO MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ON UNIVERSITY PREMISES**

1. These Regulations are made in accordance with section 43 of the Education (No.2) Act 1986 with a view to taking the steps which are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members of the University, for persons attending events arranged by outside bodies, and for visiting speakers.
2. So far as is reasonably practicable, no premises of the University shall be denied to any individual or body of persons on any grounds connected with:
  - (a) the beliefs or views of that individual or of any member of that body; *or*
  - (b) the policy or objectives of that body.

This shall be without prejudice to the other legal obligations of the University which may require it to have regard to what is said on its premises, such as that speakers and audience engage with a range of views.

3. The following provisions of these Regulations shall apply to any event (which term includes any meeting or other activity) which is to be held on premises of the University, or premises hired by the University, if there is a real likelihood that a speaker may not be able to:
  - (a) enter or leave the building safely; *or*
  - (b) deliver his or her speech.

In these Regulations any reference to the premises of the University includes any premises occupied by the Students' Union.

4.
  - (a) Any permission, licence or contract for the use of University premises shall be subject to these Regulations.
  - (b) Infringements of, or departures from, these Regulations in whatever respect may render those responsible subject to legal action on the part of the University or to disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the University's Discipline Regulations and procedures.
  - (c) Additionally, if any such actions involve breaches of the criminal law the University authorities will be ready to assist the prosecuting authorities to implement the processes of law.
  - (d) The President & Vice-Chancellor shall act on behalf of the Council to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that all members and staff of the University, outside bodies meeting on University premises and visiting speakers comply with the provisions of these Regulations.
5.
  - (a) The organisers of any event to which these Regulations apply shall ensure that a single person is appointed as principal organiser of the event.
  - (b) The principal organiser shall ensure that the University Room Bookings procedure is followed. The University shall conduct a risk assessment before granting or withholding permission for the event booking.
  - (c) Any such permission shall be subject to these Regulations and may be subject to conditions as reasonably necessary to secure fulfilment of the University's statutory responsibilities.
  - (d) The President & Vice-Chancellor shall report to Council any decision to withhold permission for an event.