Policy on Disruption

Northwestern University stands for freedom of speech, freedom of inquiry, freedom of dissent, and freedom to demonstrate in peaceful fashion. The University recognizes that freedom requires order, discipline, and responsibility, and stands for the right of all faculty and students to pursue their legitimate goals without interference. The University, therefore, will not tolerate any attempt by any individual, group, or organization to disrupt the regularly scheduled activities of the University. Any such effort to impede the holding of classes, the carrying forward of the University’s business, or the arrangements for properly authorized and scheduled events would constitute an invasion of the rights of faculty and students and cannot be permitted. If any such attempt is made to interfere with any University activity, the leaders and participants engaged in disruptive tactics will be held responsible and will be subject to appropriate legal and disciplinary action, including expulsion.

Students who commit a disruption or attempt a disruption shall be subject to University disciplinary procedures, which may include fines, probation, suspension, or exclusion from the University. Disruption is any action that interferes with, interrupts, or impedes the holding of classes, the carrying out of University business, or the arrangements for properly authorized and scheduled University events. A person attempts to disrupt when, with the intent to disrupt, that person does any act that constitutes a substantial step toward disruption.