Rock Valley College

Campus Demonstrations Procedure

RVC Administrative Procedure (2:20.100)

General Procedure

Discussion and expression of all views is permitted within Rock Valley College (the "College") subject only to requirements for the maintenance of order. Support of any cause by orderly means which is not in violation of law and which does not disrupt the operation of the College nor interfere with the rights of others is permitted. The College retains the right to assure the safety of individuals, the protection of property, and the continuity of the educational process.

In accordance with the Illinois Statute, 720 ILCS 5/21.2 "Interference with public institution of higher education," and the Student Code of Conduct, the College prohibits acts which interfere with its operations.

The College's policy provides for freedom of expression and lawful assembly as well as orderly petition for redress of grievances. Venues are provided on the College's campus for the lawful expression of opinions, demonstrations, and protests. Indeed, such expressions is an appropriate and important element of college life. The College retains the right to regulate the time, place, and manner of demonstrations to assure the safety of individuals, the protection of property, and the continuity of the educational process.

As used herein, "**Free Expression Areas**" are open areas – indoors and outdoors – which are not used for administrative purposes related to the operation of the College or for educational-related activities and are generally available to the College community for First Amendment Speech. Free Expression Areas include those areas approved by the President of the College and adopted as part of the College's administrative procedures.

Application Process

The College requires any person, group, or organization seeking use of any College facilities or grounds to complete an event application form and follow the process documented in the Administrative Procedure entitled, "Facilities and Grounds Rental Policy & Procedures." An event application form can be obtained as follows:

1. Employees may obtain an event application form by:
    a. Downloading the form from the College's employee intranet.
    b. Contacting the Facilities, Plant, Operation, and Maintenance Department (FPOM).

2. Students or Student Groups may obtain an event application form by:

   a. Contacting the Dean of Students or the Manager of the Student Life Office.
   b. Through the ENGAGE student web portal.

3. All other individuals, groups, or organizations may obtain an event application form by:
   a. Contacting FPOM at 815-921-4300 and requesting an application.
   b. Visiting the FPOM office located inside the Support Services Building (SSB) located on the College's main campus.

All applications will be reviewed in accordance with the College's Administrative Procedure regarding Campus Demonstrations.

Procedures for College-Affiliated Speakers / Demonstrations / Protests

Free Expression Areas of campus may be used for First Amendment Speech by members of the College community based on availability as determined on a first come, first-serve basis. See locations Free Expression Areas on campus denoted on the map attached as Appendix A. In the event that conflicts in use of Free Expression Areas arise, due to unscheduled First Amendment Speech, and those conflicts cannot be reasonably resolved by relocating one or more group to an alternate Free Expression Area, any group which submitted an event application form for use of said Free Expression Area will be given priority in its use.

Prior notice of a party's intent to use a Free Expression Area is requested to ensure that there is sufficient space to accommodate the event, to ensure that the event does not conflict with any other scheduled use of the space, and to ensure that sufficient College resources are available for crowd control and security as outlined in Administrative Procedures – RVC Facilities and Grounds Rental. If such advance notice is not feasible because of unforeseeable circumstances, including very recent or still-unfolding developments, the person or group seeking to utilize the Free Expression Area should provide the College with notice as far in advance as circumstances reasonably permit.

Procedures for Non-College Affiliated Speakers / Demonstrations / Protests

Individuals or groups who are not members of the College Community or the sponsored guest(s) of a member of the College Community are restricted to outdoor Freedom of Expression Areas, only, for First Amendment speech. See map of locations listed in Appendix A.

Non-College affiliated speakers may only utilize outdoor Freedom of Expression Areas between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00pm Monday through Friday and must comply with all requirements set forth in the Administrative Procedure - RVC Facilities and Grounds Rental.

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Limitations and Authority to Deny Use

Rock Valley College reserves the right to deny any meeting, event, or rental request and/or to cancel any meeting, event, or rental due to circumstances endangering public safety. Requests for use may be denied when, in the judgment of the College President or designee, the party utilizing its facilities or grounds, or material related to such use, is considered unacceptable for presentation on the College's premises. Factors considered in determining which parties or materials are unacceptable are as follows:

1. Whether the amount of people attending the event, or the place or time of the event will substantially impede the College's operations or significantly disrupts or interferes with the College's regular activities including, but not limited to, classes.
2. Whether the party or material related to its event substantially interferes with the rights of others or takes place on College premises or at times where persons are not authorized to be.
3. Whether the party or material related to its event significantly disrupts previously scheduled campus events.
4. Whether the party or material related to its event obstructs entrances or exits to buildings.
5. Whether the party or material related to its event obstructs vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
6. Whether the speaker(s), group or organization has a history of using inflammatory speech that is intended to and effectively provokes a crowd to immediately carry out violent and unlawful action.
7. Whether the speaker(s), group or organization has a history of using intimidating speech directed at a specific individual or group in a face- to-face confrontation that is likely to provoke a violent reaction.
8. Whether the speaker(s), group or organization has a history of targeted harassment or threats or conduct that creates a pervasively hostile environment for vulnerable students.

Conduct During Demonstrations and Protests

Prohibited conduct includes:

1. Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of a person, or creates in such person a reasonable fear that such a result will occur, including but not limited to:
    - Physical abuse;
    - Intimidation, harassment, or coercion; or
    - Reckless disregard for the health or safety of any person.
2. The use of force or violence, actual or threatened, to willfully deny, impede, obstruct, impair, or interfere with any of the following:
    - The freedom of movement of any person, including entering or leaving College property or facilities;
    - The use of the College owned or controlled property or facilities; or

- The performance of institutional duties by a member of the College community.

3. The use of force or violence, actual or threatened, to knowingly occupy or remain in or at any property or facility owned or controlled by the College after receiving due notice to depart.
4. Any conduct that substantially threatens or interferes with the maintenance of appropriate order and discipline in the operation of the College. Without excluding other situations, examples include shouting, noise making, obstruction, and other disruptive actions designed or intended to interfere with or prevent meetings, assemblies, classes, or other scheduled or routine College operations or activities.
5. Inciting, aiding, or encouraging others to engage in a disruptive or coercive action.
6. Failure to comply with the directions of a College or law enforcement official acting in the performance of her or his duty.
7. Participation in a disruptive or coercive demonstration. A demonstration is disruptive or coercive if it substantially impedes College operations, substantially interferes with the rights of others, or takes place on premises or at times where persons are not authorized to be.

Guidelines for Demonstrations and Protests

There are several campus policies that must be observed when organizations or individuals plan to use college facilities for events of any kind. In planning a demonstration or a protest, the organizers and participants must observe regulations pertaining to the use of campus facilities as well as this Procedure.

Attached is a summary of “General Principles for Campus Demonstrations and Protests,” which can be distributed as appropriate.

Procedures for Handling Disruptive Demonstrations and Protests

In situations where there is an individual or group demonstration, the Rock Valley College Police Department, in consultation with the President or designee, will determine the point at which a demonstration becomes disruptive based upon the criteria set forth in Section V of this Procedure.

If the situation permits, the Chief of Police or designee will inform the demonstrators that they must discontinue their disruptive activities, explaining which activities are in violation of this Procedure, and will advise them how to continue their demonstration in a manner which is not disruptive. If the disruption continues, appropriate measures will be taken, which may include police action. An immediate physical threat to persons and/or property may require immediate police action as well as situations in which the President or designee determine that a warning will not provide adequate protection for persons or property.

Consequences of Violating the Policy

Once individuals are advised by a College official that they are violating College policy, state law, or both, the individuals may disperse or move to another location identified by the College. If they choose to remain, they are subject to arrest and/or discipline. Illinois law prohibits interference with the operation of a public institution of higher education. Violations of this law can lead to arrest, incarceration, and/or fines. Individuals may also be subject to misdemeanor or felony charges for as prescribed under local, state, or federal law.

Students who violate College or campus policy, including this Procedure, or the law, may be subject to disciplinary and/or criminal action. Students should refer to the Student Code of Conduct for specific information regarding campus rules and regulations, and the student judicial system. Disciplinary action can range from a reprimand to expulsion from the College.

Faculty and staff who violate College policy, including this Procedure, or the law, may be subject to disciplinary and/or criminal action. Faculty and staff should refer to the Rock Valley College Employee or Administrative Handbook for specific information regarding potential disciplinary action.

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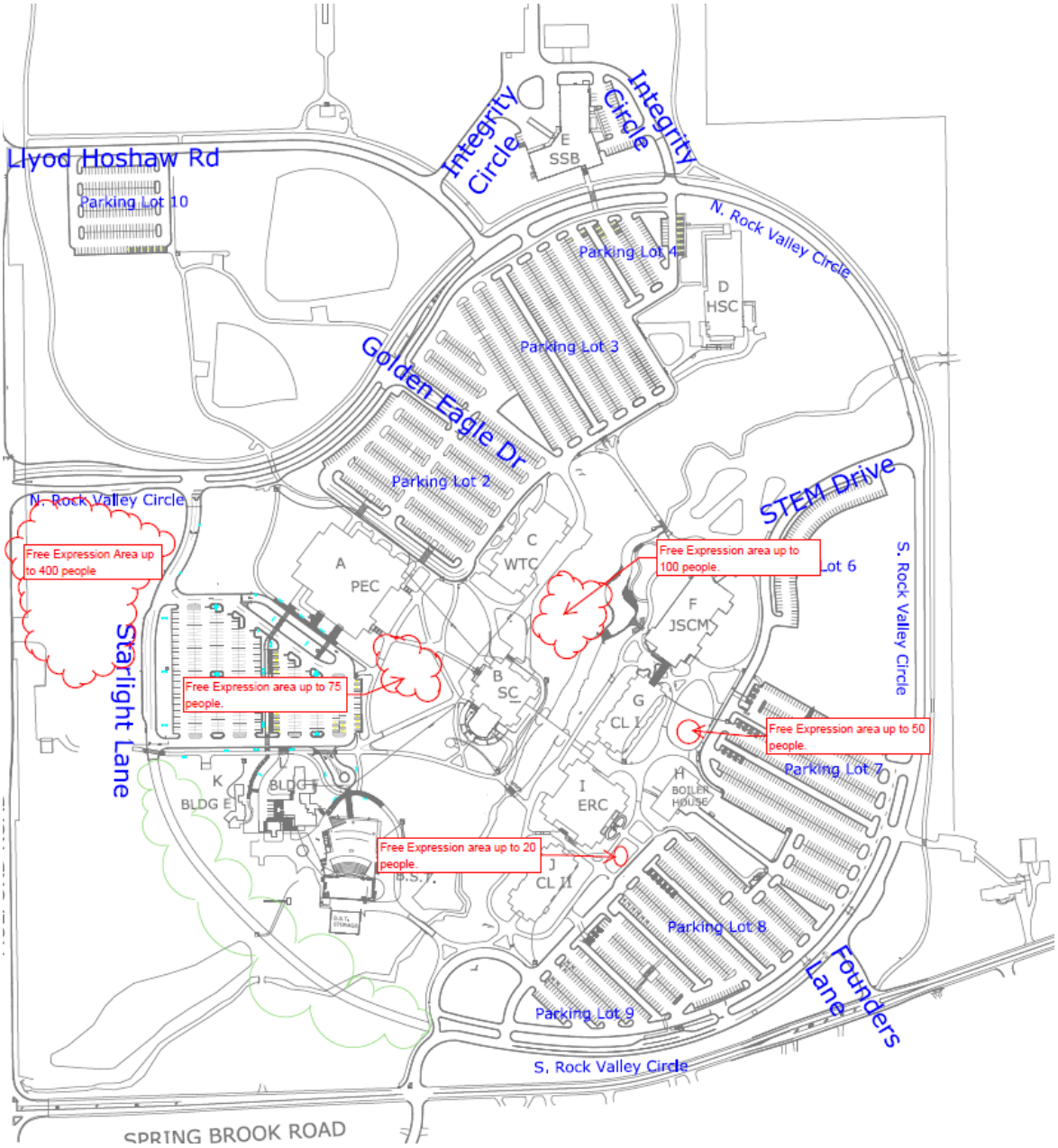
Appendix A: Campus Maps and Free Expression Areas

Main Campus Exterior

There are five Free Expression Areas around Main Campus:

1. Grass Area West of Parking Lot 1 – up to 400 people.
2. Grass Area East of Parking Lot 1, Near PEC – up to 75 people.
3. Grass Area South of WTC – up to 100 people.
4. Between ERC and Parking Lot 8 – up to 20 people.
5. Between CLI and Parking Lot 7 – up to 50 people.



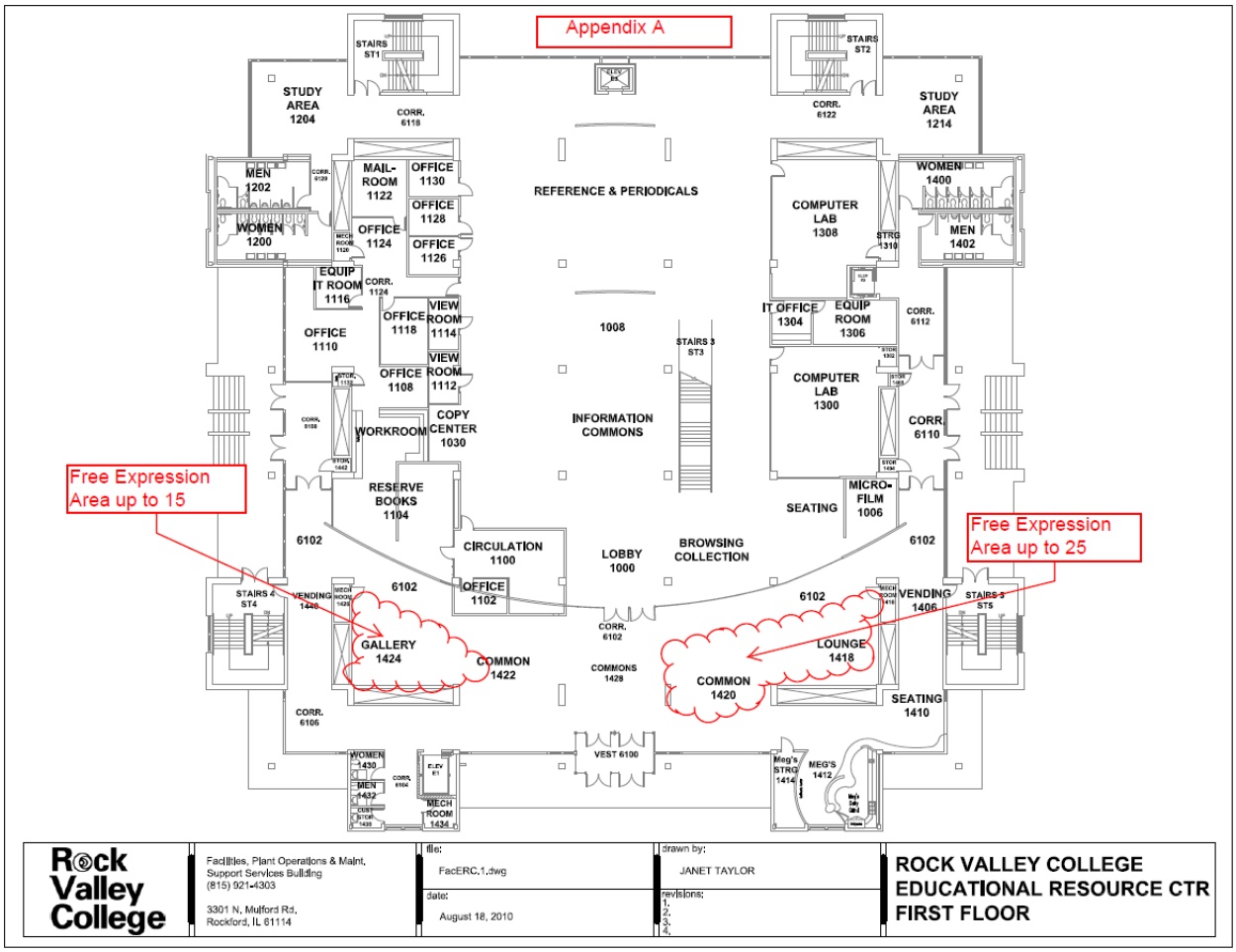
RVC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Rock Valley College

Educational Resource Center

There are two Free Expression Areas inside the ERC:

1. Gallery 1424 – up to 15 people.
2. Common 1420 / Lounge 1418 – up to 25 people.



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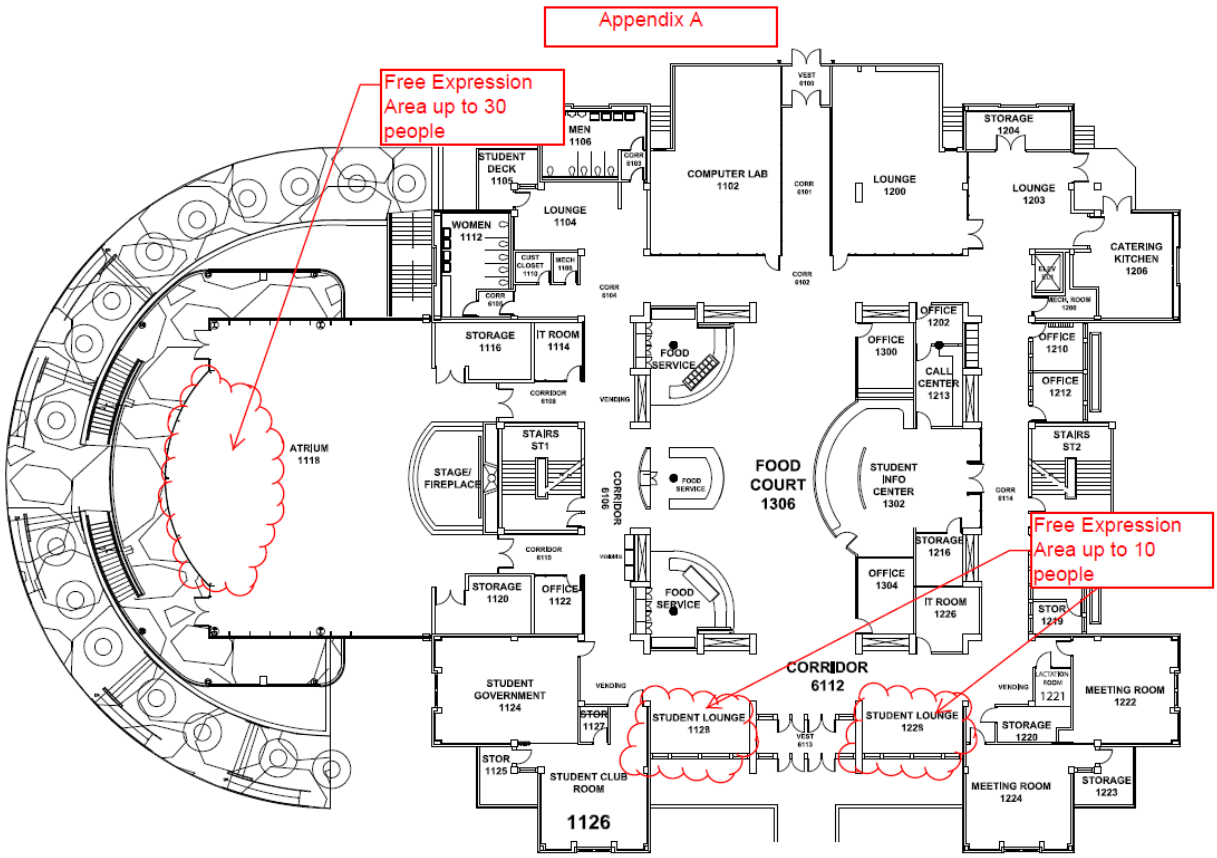
Student Center

There are three Free Expression Areas in the Student Center:

1. Student Center Atrium – up to 30 people.
2. Student Lounge 1128 – up to 10 people.
3. Student Lounge 1228 – up to 10 people.



STUDENT CENTER
1st Floor

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General Principles for Campus Demonstrations and Protests at Rock Valley College

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Reference: Board Report 6617
Implemented: July 2020
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