

Memorandum

To: Dr. John T. Dever, President

From: Kris Rarig, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

Date: June 6, 2019

Subject: Certification of Compliance

Thomas Nelson property is primarily dedicated to academic, student life and administrative functions. As an institution of higher learning, Thomas Nelson also represents the “marketplace of ideas,” and especially for students, many areas of campus represent a public forum for speech and other expressive activities. Thomas Nelson places restrictions on expressive activities occurring indoors, but especially for students and student organizations, outdoor areas of campus remain venues for free expression, including speeches, demonstrations, and the distribution of literature.

Indoors or outdoors, Thomas Nelson shall not interfere with the rights of individuals and groups to the free expression of their views or impermissibly regulate their speech based on its content or viewpoint.

This memo serves as documentation that Thomas Nelson Community College is in compliance with Va. Code Section 23.1-401.1. The college has developed materials on the speech policy and provided them to the Dean of Students, who is responsible for Code of Conduct at the College.

APM 12.15 has been updated to reflect current guidance and is posted on the College’s Free Speech landing page www.tncc.edu/speech. The landing page also contains information about reporting incidents of disruptions to or prohibitions of expressions of free speech on campus, as well as how to schedule spaces and use bulletin boards for expressive activities.

The APM 12.15 and Free Speech FAQ are contained in the 2019/2020 Student Handbook and a module related to free speech has been added to the College’s SDV 100 course beginning Fall 2019.

Thomas Nelson Community College reports any legal complaint filed in a court of law against the college alleging a violation of the first amendment on the college website. This report contains any incidents since December 1 of each year. This report is also submitted to the Governor and the Chairs of the Education Committees of the House and Senate. There have been no complaints filed since December 1 of 2018.

This memo has been posted to the college’s Free Speech page.

SUCCESS. IT'S CLOSER THAN YOU THINK.

Vice President for Student Affairs