

Susan Barber <sbarber@cnu.edu>

Freedom of Speech and Right to Assemble

1 message

Paul Trible <ptrible@cnu.edu>

Tue, Sep 25, 2012 at 3:26 PM

To: employees <employees@cnu.edu>, faculty <faculty@cnu.edu>

The request for an exception to our ten day rule for demonstrations should have been granted for the Ryan rally and underscores the need to change our University policies regarding freedom of speech and the right to assemble.

To that end, the Student Assembly was asked to review these policies and the Student Assembly has recommended that the Director of Student Activities have the authority to "grant exceptions" regarding both the 10 day rule and location designations.

I appreciate the prompt and thoughtful response of the Student Assembly. Indeed, I believe we should go further.

First, CNU will require 24 hour notice – not 10 days.

Second, the Dean of Students is authorized to waive the 24 hour notice requirement in those situations where it is possible to do so without compromising the safety and security of campus or disrupting the normal flow of traffic.

Third, the right of the people peaceably to assemble will no longer be limited to one location but rather will be determined by the circumstances of each situation. The location will be determined by University officials in consultation with the organizers.

For example, in regard to an event at the Ferguson Center for the Arts – such as the Ryan

event – the demonstration likely will be permitted on the large green lawn in front of the Ferguson Center. If the subject of the protest is an event in the David Student Union, then the assigned area likely will be on the lawn adjoining the David Student Union.

Good leadership requires acknowledging mistakes, learning from those mistakes and correcting them as soon as possible. That's our purpose in acting quickly to change our policies.

_.

President
Christopher Newport University
1 Avenue of the Arts
Newport News, VA 23606

Phone: 757-594-7001 e-mail: ptrible@cnu.edu