

 UNIVERSITY OF DENVER	UNIVERSITY OF DENVER POLICY MANUAL USE OF INSTITUTIONAL VOICE	
<u>Responsible Department:</u> Office of the Provost <u>Recommended By:</u> Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, SVC for University Relations <u>Approved By:</u> Chancellor	<u>Policy Number</u> PROV 2.30.084	<u>Effective Date</u> 6/21/2025

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The institutional or University “voice” describes ‘official’ messages sent on behalf of the University by the Board of Trustees, Chancellor and/or the Provost, or members of the Chancellor’s Cabinet.
- B. To advance the [University’s mission](#) and protect its longstanding commitment to academic freedom, thought diversity, and free expression; preserve an environment where members of our academic community are free to engage in open inquiry, dialogue, and disagreement; and avoid any suggestion that the University community must conform to a particular view of a contested issue, the University will exercise restraint in issuing statements using the institutional voice.
- C. Use of the University voice is warranted to respond to issues that have a profound and direct impact on the University and when circumstances threaten the educational mission of the University and its core values of free and open inquiry.

II. POLICY OVERVIEW

- A. Only the Board of Trustees, Chancellor and/or Provost, or other members of the [Chancellor’s Cabinet](#), through the Division of University Relations, are authorized to issue statements on behalf of the University.
- B. University leaders may issue statements in their individual or scholarly capacity, provided they indicate that they are not speaking on behalf of the University.

III. PROCESS OVERVIEW

- A. The Chancellor and Provost will evaluate the use of the University “voice” within the broader fundamental context about the mission of higher education. Since the University voice carries considerable weight, it can be seen as an essential factor in either encouraging or discouraging academic freedom and free speech.

- B. The University has adopted [Principles for the Executive Use of University Voice](#) as guidance for implementing this Policy.
- C. Any statements issued by the University will be issued through the Division of University Relations and will follow the [Principles for the Executive Use of the University Voice](#).
- D. Expressive activity by faculty, students and staff is not considered an exercise of University voice. Similarly, expressive activity by colleges, schools, and other divisional unit leaders also is not considered an exercise of the University voice but leaders are advised to use discretion if sharing a message clearly distinct from the University voice.

IV. DEFINITIONS

None

V. RESOURCES

- A. [Statement of Policy and Principles on Freedom of Expression](#)
- B. [Principles for the Executive Use of the University Voice](#)
- C. [Faculty Senate Statement on Academic Freedom and Expression](#)

Revision Effective Date	Purpose