

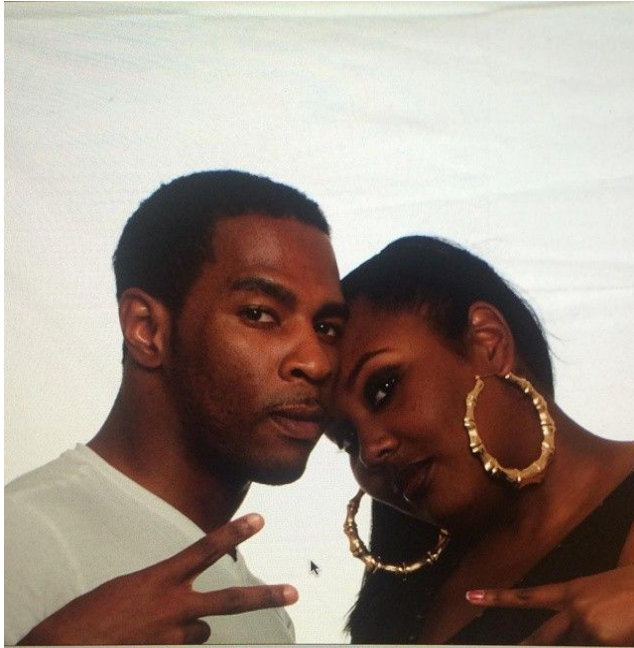


Firefighting 101: Putting Out Fires We Don't Create

MIAA Advancement Conference
Missouri Western State University
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GO GRIFFONS!

Ground Rules

- Respect each other and be willing to listen to each other as we explore topics.
- Please respect the confidentiality of all participants in the room.
- Understand we're all at different levels in our experiences and we're here to learn.

“Again?!?”

“People are so sensitive these days”

“They need to get over it”

“Let’s ignore it, it will blow over”

“This has nothing to do with us”

“Ugh, why won’t they just calm down?”

“They should be happy they’re here”

“It’s not in my job description”

“It’s Free Speech!”

The Free Speech Debate



The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Missouri - Campus Free Expression Act - last updated in 2015. Allows for “all forms of peaceful assembly, protests, speeches, distribution of literature, carrying signs, and circulating petitions”

Understanding Campus Free Speech

The First Amendment protects free speech, but does not protect someone that their behavior on campus violates campus policy or creates a hostile environment.

It does not protect behavior on campus that crosses the line into targeted harassment or threats, or creates a hostile environment for students.

What qualifies as a disruption? What qualifies as hindering student learning?

Missouri-Campus Free Expression Act

- i. Outdoor spaces on campus only
- ii. Institution has the right to decide time/place/manner
- iii. Actions cannot disrupt the functioning of the institution or hinder student learning

Metropolitan Community Colleges of Kansas City - campus free speech policy: Missouri-Campus Free Expression Act

Understanding Campus Free Speech

As campus administrators that work heavily with alumni and community members, what responsibility do we play in helping them understand campus free speech?

If a situation gets out of hand, how are we supporting the marginalized individuals or group on our campus while effectively communicating with our alumni and community members?

How are we as campus administrators educating our students in regards to free speech, advocacy, and managing conflict?

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Group Activity

Scenario #1

The university newspaper publishes an article entitled “Do I have a Booger” where the Culture Editor highlighted her encounter at a local Wendy’s restaurant. Her portrayal of the employees and their way of speaking was interpreted by a large group of students and campus community to be condescending and offensive to people. Several leaders from your culturally-based student organizations invite all students offended by the article to a meeting at 7 p.m. at an on-campus meeting space. They have asked for staff to attend to offer support. How would you move forward with offering support? What are some next steps you can suggest in finding a resolution?

Institutional Response

- Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) staff helped facilitate a large meeting called and led by student leaders.
 - At the meeting, students resolved to issue an official response signed by the students in attendance to be printed in the “Letter to the Editor” section of the university newspaper.
 - The MSA staff requested the help of the Vice-Chancellor to facilitate a closed door discussion with the core group of students and the University newspaper students.
- Prior to the meeting, University staff members met with the five main leaders of the group to develop a list of requests for the university newspaper staff to help prevent these types of incidences in the future.

Resolutions

- The University newspaper staff agreed to go through a diversity workshop hosted by the offices of MSA, Disability Services, LGBTQIA and the Women's Center.
- The movement around the response to the newspaper sparked the resurrection of the Multicultural Student Organization Council.
- The university newspaper was encouraged to review their policies for reviewing submitted articles and moved forward with establishing and branding themselves as an “independent” newspaper.

Questions?

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