

Why doesn't the University issue statements regarding geopolitical turmoil or societal events?

A university's role is to allow discourse and the free exchange of ideas regarding often complicated and controversial topics. Except in cases where there is a direct connection to the University or where failing to issue a public viewpoint would impact public safety or the ability to operate, the University, like many other research universities, refrains from issuing an institutional position regarding major geopolitical or societal events. The role of a university is to provide and disseminate information from a variety of perspectives to create a free marketplace of ideas through productive discourse, academic freedom, and free speech. This role is at the very core of our teaching and research missions.

We understand to some that a lack of a University stance demonstrates either an intentional ignorance or an endorsement of the issues being criticized. However, the University condemns all forms of hatred and violence no matter the reason, the method, or the location.

The University will pursue all available disciplinary action should individuals or groups target or harass members of our community. Although freedom of speech is protected, where that speech incites violence, threatens or harasses an individual or a group based on their race, national origin, ethnicity, shared ancestry, color, religion, or gender, or where the speech disrupts the operations of the University in violation of University policy perpetrators will be held accountable.

The University will always encourage the furtherance of its mission through civil discourse to create a better future.

What are the potential consequences of threatening or harassing faculty, staff, or students based on their race, national origin, ethnicity, shared ancestry, color, religion, or gender?

The University will take any necessary and appropriate action. If found responsible for a policy violation, OU community members would be held accountable under applicable faculty, staff and student conduct policies. For more information, please visit: : <https://www.ou.edu/eoo/resources>

What are available University resources on this topic?

For **all campus community members**, to report an incident or to find out more about possible remedial measures and support, please visit: <https://www.ou.edu/eoo/resources>

Or, utilize the **anonymous OU Report It hotline**: <https://www.ou.edu/insideou/articles/2021/august/ou-report-it-an-anonymous-easy-to-use-24-hour-reporting-hotline>

For **student resources**, including counseling services, how to report an incident, public safety information, funding and legal support, please visit: <https://www.ou.edu/studentconduct/resources>

- To report an incident, please visit: <https://www.ou.edu/studentconduct/report-an-incident>

For **faculty resources**, please visit: <https://www.ou.edu/provost/faculty-affairs>

- For support in teaching and methods for addressing difficult topics, please visit: <https://www.ou.edu/cfe>

For **staff resources**, please visit: <https://www.ou.edu/resources/faculty-and-staff>