

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

S12-8, Policy Recommendation, Sound Level at Campus Events

Legislative History:

At its meeting of May 14, 2012, the Academic Senate approved the following policy recommendation presented by Senator Gleixner for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee.

Action by University President: Approved by President Qayoumi on June 12, 2012

**Policy Recommendation
Sound Level at Campus Events**

- Whereas Sound at campus events is a normal part of co-curricular activities for students. The sound must be managed as to not be overly disruptive to classes and offices; and
- Whereas PD 2001-1 only restricts amplified sound rather than sound of a certain decibel level. This is contrary to the intent of sound management as some unamplified sound e.g. drumming, is more disruptive than some amplified sounds; and
- Whereas The 65-85 decibel range was within the range of decibel level requirements at other universities. The Instruction and Student Affairs committee members measured levels of different activities and distances in an informal manner, and the members felt that the 65-85 decibel range was reasonable; and
- Whereas PD 2001-1 currently limits sound amplification on campus to certain locations. The list of these locations is outdated. It would be more effective to establish a procedure for establishing and reviewing approved places for events that involve loud sound; and
- Whereas Sound at campus wide events (e.g. protests, marches, and parades) are approved through the registration process for these events with University Police; and
- Whereas Practice has been that amplified sound is only allowed from 12-1pm on campus. However, this limits when and how the campus community can recruit, communicate with, or attract diverse campus participants; therefore be it

Resolved that

1. Sound (amplified or otherwise) at campus events that is kept below 65 decibels does not need to be approved. However, all events still need to be properly scheduled through the Student Union Event Services.
2. Events using sound (amplified or otherwise) in the 65-85 decibel range are allowed campus wide as long as they are approved by Student Union Event Services. Event organizers must notify the department chairs in the surrounding buildings of the scheduled event. This is a courtesy notification, not a step in the approval process. Student Union Event Services will maintain a list of email contact information.
3. Campus events with sound (amplified or otherwise) 85 decibels and above are allowed only in specified locations. The sound at the event must be approved by and monitored by the Student Union Event/Technical Services.
 - a. Student Union Event Services will maintain the list of campus locations for which these events may be scheduled. This list will be reviewed and updated annually.
 - b. Approval of these events will not be limited to a certain time frame during the day.

The decibel levels referred to above are measured at 10 feet from the source of the sound.

University Police has the right to insist on the decreasing or ceasing of sound, even if approved by Event Scheduling, at any time.

This policy does not apply to course related activities, for example the marching band.

Approved: 4/23/12
Vote: 13-0-0
Present: Steve Branz (non-voting), Bill Campsey, Yan Yin K. Choy, Victor Culatta, Caroline Fee, Stacy Gleixner, Gordon Haramaki, Rich Kelley, Art King, Marian Sofish, Vivian Souliotis, Katrina Swanson, Sheryl Walters, Ken Wharton
Absent: Arlando Smith
Financial Impact: None
Workload Impact: Added workload to Student Union Event Services for establishing and reviewing locations and reviewing event applications.