

SUGGESTIONS FOR HANDLING CLASSROOM DISRUPTION

- ◆ Faculty members are responsible for management of the classroom environment.
- ◆ Classroom disruption should be seen as a disciplinary issue as defined by the **Student Handbook, The ROAR.**
- ◆ Both students and faculty members have some measure of academic freedom. Students should be allowed to ask questions but not in such a manner as to insult the faculty member or others.
- ◆ Students may not consider some behaviors as rude, uncivil or disruptive. It is up to the faculty member, however, to make students aware that disruptive behaviors are never acceptable.
- ◆ No student is exempt from the classroom disruption policy. If any student is disrupting the classroom, the situation should be handled according to the standards of the faculty member and the procedures of the University.



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STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

- ◆ Clarify standards for student conduct.
- ◆ Serve as a role model for the conduct you expect.
- ◆ If you believe inappropriate behavior is occurring, consider a general word of caution rather than warning a particular student.
- ◆ If the behavior is irritating but not disruptive, try speaking with the student after class.
- ◆ When it is necessary to speak to a student during class about his or her behavior, do so in a firm yet non-threatening manner.
- ◆ If a student persists in disrupting a class, the faculty member can direct the student to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period. The student should be told the reason(s) for such action and given an opportunity to discuss the action as soon as possible. Prompt consultation should be undertaken with the Department Chair and the Dean for Student Life. Suspension for more than one class period requires disciplinary action.
- ◆ If a disruption is serious and other reasonable measures have failed, the University Police should be summoned, immediately.

MANAGING CLASSROOM DISRUPTIONS

Division of Student Affairs

Mr. Ralph Owens
Dean of Student Life

Mr. Elbert Bennett
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Dr. Laurence B. Alexander
Chancellor

UAPB
University of Arkansas
At
Pine Bluff

Campuses across the nation are experiencing an increase in classroom disruptions. This brochure is designed to assist faculty members in handling these situations.

EXAMPLES OF CLASSROOM DISRUPTIONS

- ◆ Repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization;
- ◆ Making loud or distracting noises;
- ◆ Persisting in speaking without being recognized;
- ◆ Resorting to physical threats or personal insults;
- ◆ Using technology devices (cell phones, iPad, etc.) in the classroom, that the faculty has not given permission to use.
- ◆ Any other activity the faculty members may deem disruptive to the class.

STEPS TOWARD ADDRESSING CLASSROOM DISRUPTIONS

The **UAPB Student Handbook, *The ROAR***, (page 40), outlines the academic procedure for dealing with classroom disruptions. The policy is summarized as follows:

1. Instructor will request the student to discontinue the disruptive action.
2. If the behavior continues, the instructor will instruct the student to leave the classroom. University Police should be called to remove the student if he or she does not leave.
3. An incident report will be completed by the instructor and filed with the Dean of Student Life and a copy sent to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
4. Upon receipt of the incident report, including the student's comments, the Dean of Student Life shall investigate the matter and take appropriate disciplinary action.
5. The student must secure written permission of the Dean of Student Life in order to return to class.
6. Disciplinary action can include an administrative drop from class.
7. No student is exempt from the classroom disruption policy. Students who disrupt the classroom should be handled according to the standards of the faculty member and procedures of the university.

CLASSROOMS DISTURPTIONS INVOLVING VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF STUDENTS RIGHTS

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff views classroom disruptions as academic and behavioral violations. In the UAPB Student Handbook, (*The ROAR*, page 96) a classroom disruption is listed as a violation of the code of conduct. Such behavior will subject the student to possible disciplinary sanctions.

In the event a student becomes physically or verbally abusive, University Police should be contacted immediately at 575-8102. When the situation is under control, the faculty member can file an incident report with the Dean of Student Life or designee. He or she will take immediate action through the judicial process. This may or may not involve removal from the classroom, depending on the situation.

**For more information contact
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