

Info Sheet: Yiannopoulos Event and Aftermath

(June 2, 2016)

Info Points:

- On May 24, protesters disrupted an on-campus event sponsored by the DePaul College Republicans and featuring remarks from Breitbart columnist Milo Yiannopoulos. When Yiannopoulos led participants from the venue onto the campus, the event was ended as a safety measure.
- Students, professional staff and others were subjected to shocking and hate-filled epithets from the attendees – of whom 69 percent were not from DePaul – both before and after the event.
- In the ensuing week, many university staff, faculty, and offices have been dealing with extraordinary volumes of racist and threatening phone calls, email messages, and other communications. Tech support for online harassment and high call volumes is available from IS. For assistance call 2-8765.
- The events of the past week have reignited the campus debate about intersecting topics that are vitally important to the DePaul community. Among them are racism, free speech, diversity and inclusion, Vincentian values, and civil discourse. We plan to continue to provide opportunities for the community to engage in well facilitated, open conversations about the important and challenging issues we face.
- We are investigating all actions of harassment against members of our community and will seek out those responsible and hold them accountable. In the meantime, we must make it our primary objective that everyone at DePaul — students, faculty, and staff — feel heard, cared for, and protected, and we have taken specific steps to address safety concerns.
- If you receive a direct threat through email, social media, or phone, [contact Public Safety](#). Whenever possible, make a record of the threat by taking a screenshot, making a printout, or saving the email (rather than deleting it). If the threat is via phone, note the phone number from your caller ID. Hang up the phone immediately if the call is abusive.
- We encourage everyone to Take Care DePaul -- to be mindful, report any direct threats against individuals to Public Safety, and reach out to Student Affairs, faculty, and staff — and each other — for support.
- Students who invite speakers to campus must abide by applicable practices and guidelines, including policies set forth by the Student Centers on matters such as security and room reservations, the [Speakers Guidelines](#) and the Student Code of Conduct. As always, DePaul encourages students to follow the university's [Guiding Principles on Speech and Expression](#).
- While Breitbart, the syndicated news and opinion website that live streamed the event, has said DePaul charged it \$1,000 for extra security and Yiannopoulos has asked that security costs be 'refunded,' no invoices for security services have been issued or paid. Because the university canceled the event for safety reasons, the university will cover all costs for security.

FAQs

1. Why are student groups allowed to invite speakers to campus who stand against the university's Vincentian values?

A: A university exists to prepare students for the world they will enter. Professors and student organizations alike regularly invite speakers to address a broad array of ideas that are within the world's discourse so that students can encounter, understand, incorporate and/or learn to refute what they hear. Our purpose is to expose students to many lines of thinking. We trust that, in the university's larger debate and discourse, the better ideas and ideals will emerge. When organizing events, students are expected to comply with the university's [Speakers Guidelines](#) and follow the university's [Guiding Principles on Speech and Expression](#).

2. Did DePaul use university funds for this event?

A: No, the students sought outside funding.

3. Why didn't DePaul Public Safety stop the protesters from disrupting the event?

A: Public Safety's goal was to preserve the peace and prevent serious injuries. Security staff consulted with Student Affairs to determine their actions. Before acting on the possibility of arrests or shutting down the event, the speaker moved the audience outside and tension in the room dissipated.

4. Will the students who disrupted the event face disciplinary action?

A: The actions of student protesters who disrupted the event are being addressed.

5. Will DePaul refund the security fee to the College Republicans?

A: Neither Yiannopoulos nor DePaul College Republicans was invoiced for security costs. Because the event was canceled, DePaul will cover all security costs.

6. Immediately following the event and in the days since then, students who protested the event or simply disagreed with the speaker's message have been subjected to extreme harassment. And students who sponsored the event have also said they felt threatened when the event was disrupted. What is DePaul doing to ensure the safety of its students? What should I tell students who disclose to me that they are being harassed?

A: We are investigating all actions of harassment against members of our community and will seek out those responsible and hold them accountable. Students who report being harassed should report this behavior to Public Safety. Here are some specific steps DePaul is taking to address safety concerns:

- There are additional Public Safety patrols on campus grounds.
- The escort service at Lincoln Park has been expanded to 24 hours, within the campus boundaries. Please be aware that this could be a walking escort and that request volume and other activities could increase wait times. To request the service, call 773-325-SAFE (7233).

- **Student Affairs staff have increased their visibility and engagement. Look for them around campus wearing their name tags, particularly during class change times. All staff and faculty are encouraged to be as visible and accessible as possible during this difficult period.**
- **Information tables have been set up at the Lincoln Park and Loop campuses. These will be staffed Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4- 6 p.m. The goal is to be actively accessible to students with questions, concerns, or feedback.**
- **It is DePaul's primary objective that everyone at DePaul – students, faculty, and staff— feel cared for and protected. It cannot be emphasized enough how important this is to the well-being of our community.**

7. On May 24th the words “Trump 16 F*** Mexico” were painted on the Quad. Have you investigated that incident, and who was responsible?

A: DePaul University Public Safety identified a student responsible for the profane and racist graffiti that was painted on the Quad. The student admitted responsibility, a complaint was signed, and the student was taken into custody by the Chicago Police Department.

8. Did a DePaul professor resign because she was upset about Yiannopoulos' presentation and its aftermath?

A: The professor corrected this information when she informed the publication [Inside Higher Ed](#) that she resigned some months ago.

9. What is being done to find out who left the noose on the sidewalk?

A: An investigation is continuing. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Public Safety.

10. Is it true that DePaul lost a \$250,000 donation because of the Yiannopoulos incident?

A: We are not aware of the withdrawal of major gifts resulting from Yiannopoulos' campus visit.

11. Is DePaul planning any programming to balance the extreme conservative views of recent speakers on campus?

A: It is important for the university to provide forums for the airing of a range of perspectives on key issues. Toward that end, DePaul will organize conversations and continue to encourage students to engage speakers who hold a wide range of viewpoints and perspectives on topics of interest to the campus community.

12. With the upcoming election in the fall, tension over political differences likely will continue into the next academic term. What is DePaul's plan for facilitating productive discussions?

A: We believe the same. Our conversation this week and next will help shape these activities. Certainly this will be an important conversation for all of us who remain on campus over the summer, and we would welcome ideas at any time.