

## **SALISBURY UNIVERSITY USE OF SIDEWALK CHALK**

### **I. POLICY**

Salisbury University (the "University") recognizes that sidewalk chalk is an acceptable method for registered student organizations and University students, faculty, and staff to promote University programs and events, make announcements, and share messages.

### **II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to balance individual rights to free expression with the University's property interests.

### **III. RULES AND PROCEDURES**

The following governs the use of sidewalk chalk ("Chalking") on University property:

- a. Only registered student organizations, University students, faculty, and staff may write chalk messages on campus.
- b. No paint, permanent chalk, markers, or spray chemicals may be used; only watersoluble chalk (sidewalk chalk) is permitted.
- c. Chalking may only occur on uncovered, horizontal, pedestrian walkways where rain and natural elements can reasonably be expected to wash the messages away.
- d. Chalking is not permitted on any part of any buildings or structures, including, but not limited to: the pergola, buildings, walls, benches, signs, sculptures, monuments, poles, columns, trees, newspaper boxes, mailboxes, etc.
- e. Individuals shall not remove, deface, or alter messages that were written by others.
- f. The following statements are not constitutionally protected by the First Amendment and are prohibited:
  - i. Obscenity (i.e. appeals to a prurient interest in sex, is patently offensive, and is utterly without redeeming social value);
  - ii. Statements likely to incite violence or that an objectively reasonable person would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to cause a present or future harm;
  - iii. Defamatory statements (false information that hurts a person's reputation); and iv. Statements that constitute violations of other University policies, including the University Policy Prohibiting Non-Sex Based Discrimination and the Policy Prohibiting Sexual Misconduct and Other Gender-Based Discrimination.

### **IV. VIOLATIONS**

- a. The University may remove Chalking that violates this Policy.
- b. Individuals or organizations that violate this Policy may be:
  - i. Required to clean up all chalking and/or held financially responsible for the cost of clean-up and removal;
  - ii. Subject to disciplinary action; and/or
  - iii. Subject to civil or criminal charges (e.g., vandalism).

- c. Violations of this Policy should be reported to:
  - i. StudentConduct@salisbury.edu or the Office of Student Accountability and Community Standards
  
- i. **RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT**

The University's Office of Student Accountability and Community Standards (410-677-0022) is responsible for implementing this policy and may be contacted regarding questions about the policy.

Updated 8/2024