



University of Pittsburgh

Division of Student Affairs

738 William Pitt Union
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260
412-648-1006

November 18, 2016

Dear Pitt Students,

Among the rights students have under the University of Pittsburgh Student Code of Conduct, is the right to engage in peaceful, orderly, and nondestructive picketing, protests, and demonstrations, to the extent they do not violate public law, and do not interfere with the educational process or the rights of other members of the University.

Numerous unencumbered protests and demonstrations on our campus in recent weeks and months have shown the University's support and defense of this important right. Peaceful and lawful protests and demonstrations by students can draw attention to the unnoticed, give voice to the unheard, and inspire positive changes for the betterment of our society. I admire and appreciate the students who exercise their rights, and at the same time respect the rights of others and the law.

Our University is home to thousands of people who study, work, teach, research, and live on our campus. In addition to our individual rights, we all have a responsibility not to intrude on the rights of others. This balance is a hallmark of our democracy, and an expectation for all members of the Pitt community and visitors.

The University, including its administration and public safety officials, have a responsibility to ensure that our University environment is safe, protect property, and protect the rights of everyone in our community. Protesters do not have the right to act in a manner that disregards the safety or rights of others or damage property. Therefore, we expect all members of this community to abide by directives and instructions provided by police and University administrators, and reserve the right to take appropriate action if these actions are disregarded.

The incident in the Towers Lobby on Thursday was the result of blatant disregard for the safety, welfare, and rights of members of our community, including our police officers. Disregard for the rights and safety of community members, and failure to comply with lawful direction of a University official acting in the performance of their duties and authority, will not be tolerated.

If you choose to exercise your right to protest or demonstrate, you must follow the law and protest or demonstrate peacefully, or risk losing the great privilege of attending our great University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenyon R. Bonner".

Kenyon R. Bonner
Vice Provost and Dean of Students