

VAYU'S POLICY ON NEUTRALITY IN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy¹ is to affirm VaYU's commitment to academic freedom and to maintain institutional neutrality on political and social issues, except in cases where the university's mission or operations are directly threatened.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all members of the university community, including faculty, students, staff, and administrators.

PRINCIPLES

1. **Academic Freedom:** VaYU is committed to the academic freedom of its faculty and students including the freedom to explore, discuss, and debate a wide range of ideas and viewpoints without fear of censorship or reprisal.
2. **Institutional Neutrality:** VaYU as an institution will remain neutral on political and social issues. This neutrality is essential to maintaining an environment of free inquiry and intellectual challenge.
3. **Individual Expression:** Faculty, students, and staff are free to express their personal views on political and social issues, either individually or in groups. However, these expressions must be clearly distinguished from the official positions of the university.
4. **Exception for Threats to Mission:** VaYU may take a position on political or social issues only when these issues directly threaten the university's mission, its commitment to academic freedom, or its basic operations.
5. **Diversity of Views:** VaYU will foster an environment that encourages the widest diversity of views within its community. This diversity is essential to the university's role in society as a place of intellectual challenge and discovery.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. **Communication:** VaYU will communicate this policy to all members of the university community through official channels, including the university website, orientation materials, and regular updates.
2. **Training:** VaYU will provide training and resources to help faculty, students, and staff understand and implement this policy.
3. **Monitoring and Enforcement:** VaYU will establish a committee to monitor compliance with this policy and address any concerns or violations. This committee will include representatives from faculty, students, and staff.

REVIEW AND REVISION

This policy will be reviewed and revised periodically to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness. Any proposed changes will be communicated to the university community for feedback and discussion.

¹ This policy is inspired by the [Kalven Report](#), titled *The University of Chicago: A Mandate for Our Time*, issued by the University of Chicago in 1967.

