

University System responses to member questions from November 2025 meeting

1. What is the security process and any reviews necessary for on-campus meetings or assemblies that are expected to be controversial?

**Rachel, our smaller campuses don't have dedicated university police so review of security concerns happens on a more ad hoc basis. The affiliate campuses work with the flagship if they need legal or other support.

University of Montana. The [procedures to UM's Facilities Use and Access Policy](#) state that groups or individuals holding events will be required to complete a [major events assessment form](#) when the event is on University property and meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Over 100 persons are anticipated to attend;
2. Over 50 participants are anticipated to attend and alcohol is to be served;
3. Nonaffiliated user and alcohol is to be served;
4. User has expressed a safety concern.

The University's [Campus Preparedness & Response Group](#) (CPRG) is made aware of events which qualify as "major events" or which they have been otherwise been informed may have security concerns. CPRG reviews security protocols for such events and makes recommendations regarding such protocols when necessary.

Montana State University. MSU has a Special Events Advisory Team that works with event organizers to potential safety concerns. See Attached.

2. What is or was the ombudsman's role and did that role go away?

My research did not find that there was ever a dedicated ombudsman position at OCHE. MSU did have an ombudsman that existed to support faculty from 2002 to 2011. The position functioned as a neutral university wide faculty and professional staff mediator. It was a grant funded position that went away when the grant ran out. While there is not a dedicated ombudsman, campuses do have other resources to help students like case managers and peer advisors.

3. Are there statistics kept on the number of students that use administrative remedies for complaints about civil rights or other violations?

University of Montana. The campus publishes annual reports/statistics tracking Title IX and discrimination complaints. <https://www.umt.edu/equal-opportunity-title-IX/annual-reports/default.php>

Montana State University. See attached document with numbers for the last two years.

4. Could the committee get a list of or a link to a list of the variety of student groups on campuses?

<https://grizhub.umt.edu/organizations>

<https://www.mtech.edu/student-life/clubs/>

<https://www.umwestern.edu/wp-content/uploads/ASUMW-Active-Clubs-2025-2026-1.pdf>

<https://montanastate.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations>
<https://www.msun.edu/stuorgs/>
<https://www.msubillings.edu/engagement/engage-studentlife/pick-one.htm>

5. Could the committee get links to the free speech and civil rights landing spots. I have a few but want to be sure I have the right ones.

The MUS, UM and MSU websites provide guidance around free speech for our flagship campuses and affiliates.

<https://mus.edu/free-speech/>
<https://www.umt.edu/free-speech/>
<https://www.montana.edu/freespeech/rights.html>

6. Could the committee get any University policies about students carrying “less than lethal” options (like pepper spray) on campuses?

**Individual pepper spray is not prohibited under any of the relevant policies.

<https://mus.edu/borpol/bor1000/1006.pdf>
https://www.montana.edu/policy/firearms_policy/
<https://www.umt.edu/policies/browse/facilities-security/firearms-on-campus>
<https://www.mtech.edu/student-life/conduct/code-of-conduct/student-handbook.pdf>
(p. 16)
<https://www.umwestern.edu/section/601-4-firearms-chemicals-fireworks-explosives/>
<https://www.msun.edu/admin/policies/1000/1004-4.aspx>
<https://www.msubillings.edu/police/policies.htm>

7. They asked for the shared policy goals. [This is the latest document that I found](#), which was presented to the 2025 Section E subcommittee. Does that seem right to you?

Attaching the 2025 document. Your link looks like the compliance update for the 2023 shared policy goals.

8. Representative Hinkle also asked about the status of Young Americans for Liberty on the MSU campus. They have been a registered campus club since 2023. The campus records show they did not register as a club in 2020 and 2021.