Dear Greg,

I sent an email to Yuval Grossman and Eric Cheyfitz about possible changes to the campus code. Here is Yuval’s response which he gave me permission to share with the cjc. Could you make sure that it gets to all the members.

Thanks,

Randy

**From:** Yuval Grossman [mailto:yg73@cornell.edu]
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2013 9:41 PM
**To:** Randy O Wayne
**Subject:** Re: Looking for advice

Dear Randy,

Thanks a lot for your email. Below are some points that I think should be addressed. Sorry that it became too long.

The way I read the part in that code that stated that there is no need for a permit, is as follows: "Just not having a permit cannot be used to tell people to stop" Yet, this does not say that people have the right to do it at anytime or any place. I think this should become clear. A short one line can explain the difference.

I think we should keep it such that permit is not require. It will be really sad if based on the events in November, one will need a permit for any demonstration.

I still think, however, that permit should be the preferred way to go, as it can avoid problems like we had last time. Once someone ask for a permit a place is given and no one else can use the exact same place. Ideally the code will make it clear that asking for permit has benefits, like securing a place, but it is not a must.

One more point is the issue of counter demonstration. I think we have to permit it, but with some restriction, like keeping a safe distance between groups. If both groups ask for permit it is easy to arrange. If only one group ask, the police can tell the other group to move to some distance away. If none is ask, then the police can tell both groups to move to a safe distance. This is one more example where asking a permit should be preferred.

Now some more suggestions: The first one has to do with having dogs in such demonstrations. I think that we should forbid it (unless of course they are for the blind). I felt it was just not OK that people from the SJP had dogs with them, in particular when they came and confront us with hate words. Once things get hot, the dogs can get out of control and attack people from the other side.

I also thing guns should not be allowed. This was not an issue last time, but I feel it is just like dogs, there is no need for them in such cases as one do not know how things can evolve.

Then, there is the big issue of what kind of counter demonstration should be allowed on cultural events. I feel that any student organization can have a social or cultural event without having other people with different point of view to interfere with their event and making it into a political issue. Of course, anyone have the right of speech, but in case there is a cultural event, I think people of the other side should be really far away in a way that the cultural event can keep being as such.

Please let me give you two examples. The first one was on Israeli independent day few years ago. We reserved Ho plaza for a pure cultural event, with Camel riding and promotion for trips to Israel. Some SJP students came and put the palestinian flag there and started to promote their point of view accusing Israel with war crimes etc. I feel this is not OK. We have the right to celebrate it without moving into politics. It is our event and we have to keep it our way. If they like to do a political demonstrating they can, but not by ruing our event.

Another event was when we make an Israeli week and gave free Falafel. The SJP students came with signs saying that Falafel is not an Israeli food, and, again make it into a political event. I feel that this really hurt our freedom.

Now, just to make it clear, this SJP tactics is very much in purpose. They claim that every time there is anything connected with Israel they must come and interfere with the event. They claim that hurting us in a way that is not physical is the way to go.

In the long run i can see how things can get bad in case they will continue like this. Eventually, we will also start doing it to them, and things will get out of control. Keeping freedom of speech and at the same time freedom of celebrating diversity in a relaxed way.

I would love to tell you more about it in person if you like to hear more details.

Best,

  Yuval

On Tue, Feb 26, 2013 at 8:49 AM, Randy O Wayne <row1@cornell.edu> wrote:

Dear Drs. Grossman and Cheyfitz,

I am on the University Assembly and its Codes and Judicial Committee. I listened to you at the last Faculty Senate Meeting and wanted to let you know that I welcome your views as to how you think the Codes and Judicial Committee should proceed. I am writing to you since you both have been outspoken but I also welcome the views and opinions of anyone else you think would like to give their input.

Thanks,

Randy