

Navigating the New Wave of Student Activism

## Navigating External Influences

### Key Questions to Discuss on Campus

#### Background

Today many campuses are grappling with third party actors and organizations that are shaping campus activism. The rise of third party actors raises specific challenges for institutions, such as how to handle pop-up events and invited speakers or when to issue an official institutional response.

While this challenge cannot be completely planned for in a policy, it is important to consider how your institution's policies and response protocols will be applied to third party actors. Use these questions in conversations with campus leaders and response teams to calibrate your institution's response strategy for third party actors and other external influences.

#### How Third Party Actors Are Influencing Campus Activism

#### Questions to Consider



##### Monitoring Institutional Actions

- Assessing institutional policies for violations of free speech principles or protections
- Reviewing the university's external communications for missteps, inconsistencies, and signals of future action



- Who are the major groups that are currently monitoring your institution's activities?
- Who on campus is responsible for responding to and coordinating with these groups? What are our general response parameters?
- What is our institutional policy for drafting, issuing, and responding to official college communications?



##### Outfitting Students with Resources

- Providing resources, training, and support to students' on-campus movements
- Connecting students with a national network of like-minded supporters in other communities



- What third party organizations or actors are providing resources and support to students?
- How are students engaging with off-campus peers? How is this changing their activity on campus?
- How can we help students critically assess the motivations and resources available through third party actors?



##### Speaking on Campus

- Pop-up campus speakers and exhibits might conflict with university or student values
- Invited speakers might cause an uproar on campus, in the local community, or beyond



- Who is allowed to use space on campus to freely set-up a space to speak or an exhibit?
- How do we handle formal requests from third party actors to host events or forums on campus?
- Who can invite speakers to the institution? Are there any requirements?
- Under what conditions can an invitation be rescinded?

Source: EAB interviews and analysis.