

07.03.01.C0.01 Freedom of Speech, Assembly, and Demonstration



Approved: September 2, 2011
Revised: May 5, 2016
Next Scheduled Review: May 5, 2021

Procedure Statement

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi recognizes the constitutional rights and privileges concerning freedom of speech.

Reason for Procedure

This procedure implements federal and state laws and System policy governing expressive activities on property under the control of the University.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi recognizes the rights of citizens to express their opinions through speech, writing, and action.

2. EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITIES

The University provides forums for the expression of ideas and opinions as listed in Section 3 of this procedure.

3. TYPES OF FORUMS

- 3.1 University facilities are available for the expression of opinion. The University will maintain a content-neutral approach to all expressive activities.
- 3.2 Facilities on campus are categorized in the following ways.
 - 3.2.1 Traditional public forums include the University’s public streets, sidewalks, parks, and similar common areas. These areas are generally available for expressive activity, planned or spontaneous, for the individual or small

groups (generally where a crowd of 25 or less will be present, and/or where an event is not promoted in advance, and/or when an event is not sponsored by a student organization) at any time without the need for reservation, or prior approval. (Obstructing or impeding the flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic is prohibited).

- 3.2.2 Designated public forums include other parts of campus that may become temporarily available for expressive activity as designated by the University. These temporary locations, while in existence, will be treated similar to public streets, sidewalks, and parks in terms of access and availability for expressive activity. (Obstructing or impeding the flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic is prohibited.)
- 3.2.3 Limited public forums have limited open access for public expression, or they may be limited to particular groups or to particular topics. Creation of, and access to, limited public forums for student publications may be requested through the office of University Center and Student Activities. Creation of, and access to, limited public forums for non-university publications may be requested through the office of University Services. The material distributed and the form of distribution may not violate state and federal law. The university will maintain its obligation to place reasonable limits on the times during which its limited public forums may be used by any particular individual or group.
- 3.2.4 Non-public forums are areas that are not traditional public forums or designated public forums. These include areas that are not by tradition or designation forums for public communication. These forums will be restricted to use for their intended purpose and are not available for public expressive activity. Examples include, but are not limited to, classrooms, residence hall rooms, faculty and staff offices, academic buildings, administration buildings, Health Center facilities, library, research and computer laboratories, and research facilities. The University will maintain its obligation to place reasonable limits on the times during which its non-public forums may be used by any particular individual or group.

4. DISRUPTION OF UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

- 4.1 In the event of disruption of the normal academic or operational functions of the University, including interference with the free use of corridors and entrances to rooms and buildings, the University maintains its right to move to restore order and open operation of the University. Every attempt will be made to discuss issues rationally and to avoid violence or the use of force.
- 4.2 In the event the processes of discussion fail, the issues are determined to be non-negotiable, and/or disruption continues, the University Police Chief or designee will issue legal notice to the individual or group to disperse.

- 4.3 If individuals refuse to comply with lawful directives of University officials, they may be subject to disciplinary and criminal sanctions.

5. APPEALS

Appeals to any of the provisions of this procedure are as follows:

- 5.1 In residence halls and apartments not owned by the University, initial appeals will be with the general manager of the property. The appeal should be made in writing. If the appeal is denied by the general manager of the property, secondary appeals may be made to the University Housing Officer for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
- 5.2 In the case of all other University buildings, the initial appeal should be made to the Senior Executive Director for Student Life.
- 5.3 Final appeal, in both instances, shall be to the Vice President for Student Engagement and Success. The Vice President or designee will render a final decision.

Related Statutes, Policies or Requirements

[System Regulation 07.03.01, Political Campaign Events on Property Under the Control of the Texas A&M University System](#)

[University Rule 07.03.01.C1 Political Campaign Events on Property under the Control of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi](#)

[University Rule 11.99.99.C3 Guest Speakers, Lecturers and Entertainers](#)

[University Procedure 21.99.09.C0.01 Access to University Property for Sales and Solicitation Purposes](#)

[University Rule 41.01.99.C1 Use of University Facilities](#)

This procedure supersedes:

- *07.03.01.C1, Freedom of Speech, Assembly, and Demonstration*
- *07.03.01.C1.01, Freedom of Speech, Assembly, and Demonstration*

Contact Office

Contact for interpretation and clarification: Vice President for Student Engagement and Success
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