



Rule

08.02.99.L1 Expressive Activity on Campus

First Approved: May 14, 2020
Revised: May 29, 2024
June 25, 2024
October 17, 2024
December 22, 2025
Next Scheduled Review: December 22, 2030

Rule Statement and Reason for Rule

System Policy 08.02, *Expressive Activity on Campus*, requires adoption of a member rule. This rule identifies common outdoor areas that are not considered public forums, designates other public forums on the campus of Texas A&M International University (TAMIU), including reservable designated public forums, provides reservation requirements and procedures, and provides a grievance process for addressing complaints for violations of an individual's expressive activity rights.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY

The rights and responsibilities related to expressive activities on campus are set forth in System Regulation 08.02.01. Nothing in this rule will be construed to amend or alter the rights and responsibilities outlined in that regulation. Students, staff, faculty, and community members are encouraged to review the regulations to understand their rights and responsibilities while on campus.

2. DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC FORUMS

As outlined in System Regulation 08.02.01, all common outdoor areas are deemed traditional public forums unless otherwise designated by this rule. Any person is permitted to engage in expressive activities in these areas freely, as long as the person's conduct: (a) is not unlawful; and (b) does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution (e.g., obstructing entrances or exits).

3. RESERVABLE DESIGNATED PUBLIC FORUMS

3.1. The following public forums may be reserved with advance notice and subject to availability (see map for clarification):

- 3.1.1. Front lawn (area north of the Killam Library)
- 3.1.2. Academic quad (area bounded by the Killam Library, Bullock, Canseco, Pellegrino and Cowart Halls)
- 3.1.3. Zaffirini northern entrance plaza and green (area northwest of Zaffirini adjacent to the Fine and Performing Arts Center)
- 3.1.4. Kinesiology-Convocation Building (KCB) lawn and patio

4. ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIREMENTS

In an effort to ensure safety and to promote an environment conducive to study, advanced reservation for expressive activity is required for events or activities that are near intersections, and/or near academic buildings anytime classes, study activities, and/or research are taking place.

5. RESERVATION PROCEDURES

- 5.1. Current students wishing to make a reservation may do so by following the procedures outlined in [The Leader Student Organization Handbook](#) under the section titled, "Event Reservations and Regulations." Faculty, staff and third parties wishing to make a reservation may do so by following the procedures on the Community Relations and Special Event [reservations webpage](#).
- 5.2. TAMU reserves the right to locate or relocate any assembly to ensure that the activity does not interfere with the normal operation of the university or interfere with the rights of others.
- 5.3. The decision to confirm a request for space will be based on proper and timely completion of the Reservation Request form, compliance with applicable requirements, and availability of space.
- 5.4. The decision to confirm will be based on the foregoing criteria, and in no circumstance will any decision be based on the content or viewpoint of the expressive activity or upon the expected reaction of others. If a request is denied, the rationale for the decision will be provided in writing. The denial of a reservation request can be appealed to the Vice President for Student Engagement, or designee, if the reservation request is submitted by a student or student organization or the Vice President of Institutional Advancement, or designee, if the reservation is made by anyone who isn't a student.

At the time of the request, the following information will be required:

- Name of the person or organization sponsoring the event. Contact information for one individual who will be present throughout the course of the event.
- Location, date and time requested for the event.
- General purpose of the event.

- List of planned activities (i.e. speech or rally, march with signs, distribution of literature, sit-in).
- Special equipment requested.
- Anticipated attendance.

5.5 For recognized student organizations, a member of the sponsoring organization must be present at the event and throughout the entire course of the event to retain the reservation.

6. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 6.1. Any person who believes that their campus expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule and System Regulation 08.02.01, have been unduly interfered with by a student, student organization, or employee has the right to file a grievance.
- 6.2. Students, faculty, staff, and third parties may file a grievance with the Office of Compliance. Grievances may be referred to another office for review and further action, when appropriate.
- 6.3. Those who choose to observe and/or listen to expressive activities bear the responsibility for recognizing and honoring the right of free speech. Any acts that are disruptive to the normal operations of the university, including classes and university business, or that infringe on the rights of others will not be tolerated. A student, student organization, or employee who is found to have unduly interfered with another person's expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule, is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with TAMU's applicable rules and procedures. Any participant in a disruptive activity may also face criminal charges and/or be issued a criminal trespass warning.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

- 7.1. A copy of this rule and System Regulation 08.02.01 must be provided to students during new student orientation programs.
- 7.2. This rule and System Regulation 08.02.01 must be posted on the university's website.
- 7.3. A link to this rule must be included in student and employee handbooks, if maintained by the university.

Related Statutes, Policies, Regulations, or SAP's

[Texas Education Code § 51.9315, *Protected Expression on Campus*](#)

[Texas Government Code § 448.001](#)

[Executive Order GA-44 \(March 27, 2024\)](#)

[System Policy 08.02, *Expressive Activity on Campus*](#)

[System Regulation 08.02.01, *Expressive Activity on Campus*](#)

[Texas Penal Code § 42.03, *Obstructing Highway or Other Passageway*](#)

Definitions

Definitions from System Regulation *08.02.01, Expressive Activity on Campus*, are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Appendix

Map of Reservable Public Forums

Contact Office

Office of Compliance, 956-326-2855

RESERVABLE PUBLIC FORUMS

