

## **SECTION Q. USE OF UNIVERSITY SPACE**

### **1. General Policy**

Freedom of expression is critical and fosters free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberations by students enrolled at TTU as well as other persons. The purpose of this section is to establish the approval process for the use of University grounds, facilities, and amplification equipment for faculty, staff, academic, and administrative departments. With the exception of expressive activities outlined under Texas Tech University System Regulation 07.04, the space and facilities of the University are available according to the following priorities: the support of the instructional programs of the institution; the programs sponsored and conducted by University academic and administrative departments or organizations affiliated with those departments; the use of campus space and facilities for activities that have as their purpose, service or benefit to the Texas Tech University community, and that are sponsored by registered student organizations, students, faculty, and employees.

Notwithstanding any other provision set forth in this section or elsewhere in this Handbook, in the event of any conflict between the terms of TTUS Regulation 07.04 and the provisions of this Handbook, the terms of TTUS Regulation 07.04 shall control.

Except as specifically provided in TTUS Regulation 07.04 or elsewhere in this section, University facilities may not be used by individuals or organizations not connected with the University. An individual who is not a student, faculty, or staff member may attend public functions or activities held on University property, but to be eligible for the use of campus facilities, the function or activity must be sponsored by and affiliated with a University department or registered student organization. There may be a charge for attendance at some events. Sponsorship and/or co-sponsorship minimally include, but are not limited to, direct participation in planning, coordination and implementation by members of the sponsoring organizations. A department, student or registered student organization may not reserve space or facilities on campus and permit it to be used by a non-registered organization or off-campus group or person. Except as otherwise permitted under Texas Tech University or Texas Tech University System policies, non-registered organizations or off-campus groups or persons not sponsored by a department or registered organization will not be permitted to reserve facility spaces on campus. State law requires that University facilities and property not be used for private gain.

### **2. Reservation Requirements**

- a. Reservations must be made for the use of facilities under the control of the University. Requests for reservations will be granted according to the priorities of the designated area. Requests must be made to the appropriate office. Requests from registered student organizations must be signed by the organization's president and full-time faculty/staff advisor. Requests from individuals must be signed by the person applying for the use of the space or facilities.
- b. If the use of facilities is for programs or activities involving minor children, the sponsoring group must comply with Texas Education Code § 51.976, which requires

sexual abuse and child molestation training, certification, and reporting for program employees. Documentation of timely reporting to the Texas Department of State Health Services of such training should be received before reservation of space or facility will be confirmed.

### **3. Use of Facilities by Student Organizations**

- a. Student organizations must be registered to use University facilities or grounds.
- b. These meetings must be held within a 30 calendar-day time period from the date the Center for Campus Life Staff notifies the Student Union for the petitioning organization's intent to register. Academic campus facilities may be reserved by "-petitioning-" student organizations for one meeting only, if their full-time faculty or staff advisor agrees to be present at their event. Petitioning student organizations are also allowed to submit unlimited grounds use requests during the 30-day time period. If the petitioning student organization does not have a faculty/staff advisor yet the staff in the Center for Campus Life can sign off. Additional reservations will not be approved until the student organization is registered.

### **4. Procedure and Priorities for Designated Facilities**

- a. Student Union  
Priority for use of space in the Student Union is given to programs and activities which are conducted by the various departments within the Student Union. Secondary priority is given to registered student organizations and University departments. Reservations must be made in the Student Union Office Room 203.
- b. Academic Buildings  
Any registered student organization may request the use of space in academic buildings for specific purposes. These purposes may include, but are not limited to, regular meetings of honorary or professional organizations, lectures, seminars or workshops and special programs and functions. The space must be reserved through the Operations Division Planning and Administration. All requests must be submitted by an active member of the student organization using the online request form in Ad Astra Schedule at <https://www.aaiscloud.com/TXTechU> or in person at the Operations Division Planning and Administration office. A link to the scheduling site and complete instructions can be found on the department website at <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/odpa/spi/eism>  
All requests must include the full name, department, and phone number of the student organization's full-time faculty or staff advisor. Recurring space assignments may be made for one semester only. All space assignments are made on the basis of use consistent with the purposes of the University and of available space. Space assignments for student organizations will not be scheduled on weekends, holidays, during final examination periods, or during Individual Study Day. Academic use by departments and colleges has priority over other uses and organizational assignments may be changed or canceled if conflicts with regular academic programs develop.  
Academic space will be assigned on a limited basis if:
  - The intended use is in keeping with the educational purposes of the University.
  - The intended use does not conflict with the use by academic programs or

academic organizations.

- The intended use does not conflict with normal security and maintenance schedules.

c. Residence Halls

Enrolled students who live in the residence halls and participate in the residence hall governments have first priority for use of all residence hall facilities. Facilities may also be provided for individuals or groups whose activities are sponsored by, or affiliated with, University Student Housing.

University departments or registered student organizations may use residence hall facilities during the summer, or at times when space is available, for workshops, institutes, short courses and conferences. However, space availability is limited, and requests for the use of residence hall space must be made to the Managing Director of University Student Housing.

d. Intercollegiate Athletic Facilities

Texas Tech University complies with ADA standards and ensures access and accommodations for guests to all facilities listed. The Jones/AT&T Stadium Athletic Complex, Fuller Track and Field, Rip Griffin Park, McLeod Tennis Center, Rocky Johnson Field, John Walker Soccer and other athletic fields are owned and maintained by the University for the primary use and benefit of the intercollegiate athletic programs of the University, of allied non-University athletic activities consistent with such programs and of official academic events of the University. The use of these facilities shall be limited to these purposes unless otherwise authorized by the Intercollegiate Athletics Office. Requests for use of all intercollegiate athletic facilities must be made to the Intercollegiate Athletics Office. Texas Tech University complies with ADA standards and ensures access and reasonable accommodations for guests to all facilities listed in items e-i below.

e. Recreational Facilities

The Robert H. Ewalt Recreational Center, Aquatic Center, Leisure Pool, recreation fields, gazebos, tennis courts, racquetball courts and basketball courts are intended primarily for student recreational and instructional use on an organized group and individual basis. Recreational Sports is responsible for scheduling the use of these facilities.

f. McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center

The McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center, located on the southeastern corner of the Texas Tech campus, directly west of the Kent R. Hance Chapel, is the home for all Texas Tech Alumni and friends. This facility boasts a ballroom that can seat 300-plus for a banquet and more than 500 in a theatre setting. Two separate courtyards provide space for outdoor events. Booking of this facility is coordinated by the Texas Tech Alumni Association at (806) 742-0400.

g. Frazier Alumni Pavilion

The Frazier Alumni Pavilion, situated just southwest of Jones AT&T Stadium is a 6,000-square foot facility designed to host large banquets but can be configured for weddings, press conferences, and other events. It also has a 10,000-square foot outdoor porch area

that can be used to increase the size of your event. To book this venue, contact the Texas Tech Alumni Association at (806) 742-0400.

h. Kent R. Hance Chapel

A 6,879-square foot, 250-seat, non-denominational Spanish Renaissance chapel is capable of supporting a broad range of services and events. To book this venue, contact the Texas Tech Alumni Association at (806) 742-0400.

i. United Supermarkets Arena

The United Supermarkets Arena is a 15,000-seat multi-purpose facility and is host to a variety of entertainment and athletic events, including Texas Tech University basketball and volleyball, commencement ceremonies, concerts and numerous meeting room events. Facilities available for lease within the United Supermarkets Arena include the four meeting rooms in the City Bank Conference Center, Club Red, the arena concourse, the arena floor and the arena bowl area.

Registered student organizations receive rental discount for the City Bank Conference Center meeting rooms. Texas Tech University Commencement, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Commencement, Texas Tech basketball and volleyball games and major arena events, such as concerts, have priority in booking the United Supermarkets Arena. Space in the United Supermarkets Arena is reserved through the Arena Management Office.

## **5. Use of Campus Grounds**

With the exception of expressive activities under TTUS [Regulation 07.04](#), or as otherwise outlined in this section, university grounds are available for use only in accordance with the following policies and procedures:

- a. Selected grounds area (other than those described above) are available for activities that are sponsored and approved by University departments, registered student organizations or individual faculty, students and employees. Academic use by departments and colleges has priority and assignments may be changed or canceled if conflicts with regular academic programs develop.
- b. Students or registered student organizations desiring to use campus grounds must register for grounds use with the Outdoor Events Coordinating Committee (OECC) in Student Union Room 304. Faculty, staff, or departments of the University desiring to use campus grounds must register for grounds use with the Outdoor Events Coordinating Committee (OECC) in Student Union Room 304 as well. In accordance with the University's Operating Policy 61.02 regarding Use of University Grounds, Facilities and Amplification, each use must be approved in writing by the Outdoor Events Coordinating Committee (OECC). Requests must be submitted at least two (2) weeks before the intended use. Recurring use assignments shall not be permitted.
- c. The Outdoor Events Coordinating Committee (OECC) will coordinate all grounds use applications and shall grant only grounds use requests that are consistent with applicable University regulations and local, state, and federal law.
- d. A permit granting grounds use shall specify the boundaries of the area to be used, the date for which the use is approved, the time at which the proposed activity may begin, the time at which the reservation for the use expires and any special

provisions concerning the use of the space. No request will be approved for activities occurring during individual study days and/or final examination period.

- e. Students or registered organizations using a designated area are subject to the following requirements:
- Use of amplification equipment must comply with the guidelines below.
  - A structure may not be erected on campus grounds without prior written approval that will include arrangements for securing the structure and cleaning up after the event.
  - If any expenses will be incurred in the course of an event, the sponsor or co-sponsor will be required to supply a University account number before the activity can be approved by the Outdoor Events Coordinating Committee.
  - Violations of these campus grounds use regulations are subject to the disciplinary sanctions and procedures outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct*.
  - Students or registered student organizations desiring grounds use may be required to provide evidence of appropriate liability insurance in accordance with recommendations from the General Counsel's Office, Risk Management Office, other University departments or others as necessary prior to approval from the Outdoor Events Coordinating Committee.
  - Participants in, and/or sponsors for, events may be required to sign a "Hold Harmless" release.
  - The sponsor shall contact the Environmental Health and Safety Department to make necessary arrangements for any event that includes concessions or a mobile concession stand. In order for any person, vendor, or organization to operate a temporary food service or mobile unit on Texas Tech property, the Environmental Health and Safety Department must issue a valid Temporary Food Service Permit.
  - The sponsor should contact Transportation & Parking Services to make necessary parking arrangements for the event.
  - If the use of University grounds is for programs or activities involving minor children, the sponsoring group must comply with Texas Education Code § 51.976, which requires sexual abuse and child molestation training, certification, and reporting for program employees. Documentation of timely reporting to the Texas Department of State Health Services of such training should be received before reservation of space or facility will be confirmed.

## **6. Expressive Activities**

Expressive activities on the TTU campus are governed by Texas Tech University System Regulation 07.04. Notwithstanding any other provision set forth in this section or elsewhere in this Handbook, in the event of any conflict between the terms of TTUS Regulation 07.04 and the provisions of this Handbook, the terms of TTUS Regulation 07.04 shall control.

- a. Students or other persons engaged in freedom of expression activities may be subject to discipline under the *Code of Student Conduct* for the following actions related to time, place and manner restrictions applicable to expressive activities in the University

outdoor common areas:

- i. Activities that are unlawful or that materially and substantially disrupt the normal operations of the University are prohibited.
  - ii. Activities that materially and substantially prevent other individuals or groups from carrying out an expressive activity are prohibited.
  - iii. Activities that substantially interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic including the ingress or egress of University facilities are prohibited.
  - iv. Activities that substantially interfere with fire protection, law enforcement, or emergency or medical services are prohibited.
  - v. Activities that threaten or endanger the health or safety of any person on University grounds are prohibited.
  - vi. Activities that result in damage or destruction of University property are prohibited. Nothing may be affixed to or written on University property or grounds.
  - vii. Activities that inherently lose First Amendment protection (e.g., defamatory statements, true threats/fighting words, obscenity [as defined by law]) are prohibited.
  - viii. Expressive signage, posters, displays, or structures (herein “displays”) must be handheld, no larger than 3 feet in height by 3 feet in width. Displays, literature, and other items may not be left unattended.
  - ix. Amplified sound shall not exceed 80 decibel levels near University buildings, as measured at the outdoor edge of such buildings closest to the amplified sound. Any amplification device must be hand-held.
  - x. No open flames are permitted on the University campus without the express written permission of the University.
  - xi. Any activities that are subject to licensing, code, or ordinance requirements/permits must have the proper licenses/permits and satisfy such codes and ordinances (e.g., serving food and beverages).
- b. b. Additional Restrictions. The above list of reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions is not intended to be all-inclusive. The University reserves the right, as necessary, to impose additional reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions as circumstances arise.
- c. c. Restrictions Are Viewpoint-Neutral. The University’s decisions will not be based on political, religious, philosophical, ideological, or academic viewpoints.
7. d. Relocation, Limitation, and Prohibition. The University reserves the right to relocate, limit, or prohibit individuals or groups engaged in expressive activities in University outdoor common areas based on reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. Appeals of Ground Use Request Denials

Students or registered student organizations, whose requests for the use of campus grounds or non-academic space are denied, may appeal to the Director of the Center for Campus Life as follows:

- a. A written appeal describing the objections to the denial presented to the Director of the Center for Campus Life must be filed no later than five (5) University working days

after the receipt of notice of the denial from the Outdoor Events Coordinating Committee.

- b. The Director of the Center for Campus Life will convey the appeal decision, in writing, to the student or registered student organization and to the Outdoor Events Coordinating Committee within a reasonable time from the receipt of the written appeal.

## **8. Use of Amplification Equipment**

- a. Use of Amplification Equipment for Expressive Activities
  - Amplified sound shall not exceed 80 decibel levels near University buildings, as measured at the outdoor edge of such buildings closest to the amplified sound. Any amplification device must be hand-held, see TTU System Regulation 07.04.
  - Use of Amplification Equipment around University facilities. Students and registered student organizations may use handheld amplification equipment (e.g. megaphone) for expressive activities from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.
  - Use of Amplification Equipment in All Other Outdoor Areas. Students and registered student organizations may use amplification equipment for expressive activities in all other outdoor areas of the campus after 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and weekends.
  - Use of amplification equipment is subject to all rules concerning the time, place, and manner of expressive activities outlined in TTUS Regulation 07.04.
  - No amplification of sound is permitted during the final exam period.
  - The volume and direction of amplification equipment shall be controlled so as not to interfere with classes in session, examinations, or other campus community activities.
  - Use of amplification equipment shall not create a sustained or repeated noise disturbance that substantially interferes with the normal activities of the University community.
- b. Other Use of Amplification Equipment
  - The use of loudspeakers, any other type of amplification equipment (e.g. portable stereo devices, portable studios, etc.), or amplified musical instruments on University grounds by students and/or registered student organizations for any purpose other than expressive activities as set forth in section 6, above, is by permission only.
  - Applications from individuals, departments, and organizations for permission to use amplification equipment must be made on the Grounds Use and Solicitation Request form provided by the Outdoor Events Coordinating Committee and the management of Operations Division Planning and Administration.
  - Applications must be submitted at least two weeks before the intended use.
  - The Outdoor Events Coordinating Committee and the management of Operations Division Planning and Administration may prescribe rules concerning scheduling, maximum sound levels, location and direction of speakers, and other rules to facilitate the use of amplified sound to mediate any conflict with University

functions, classes in session, examinations, other nearby activities, and the campus environment.

- The use of amplification equipment for solicitation purposes must conform to all campus grounds use provisions, as well as policies governing solicitation and commercial activities.
- The use of such equipment or loudspeakers is not permitted in the vicinity of classrooms during regularly scheduled class hours without written permission from Operations Division Planning and Administration.
- Sound equipment must not be disruptive, and the volume and direction of amplification equipment shall be controlled so as not to interfere with classes in session, examinations, or other campus community activities.
- Special events such as dances, pep rallies, ceremonies, or recreational activities that include the use of bands or amplification equipment may be held in approved locations only with prior approval of the Outdoor Events Coordinating Committee (OECC).
- Outdoor dances utilizing sound amplification devices may be held only on Friday and Saturday nights, and must terminate by 1:00 a.m. Bands may use their own equipment on such dates.

c. Academic Use

- The appropriate use of loudspeakers for official University activities inside academic buildings, or on the campus as a part of the academic instructional program, is determined and approved by the Office of the Provost.
- Permission for use of the victory bells or carillon bells in the towers of the Administration Building must be requested through the Office of the Provost at least one University working day before time of intended use. Use of the bells must not interfere with the normal functions and programs of the University. See OP 30.21.