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Public Affairs and Development

85.01 Freedom of Expression
2001

Issued: December 7,

1. Purpose

The purpose of these procedures is to address freedom of expression. Political Campaign Events are covered under University Rule 33.01.01.P1. Sales and solicitation activities are covered under departmental procedures administered by the Director of Student Center Operations.

2. Overview

Prairie View A&M University is committed to providing an educational and work climate that is conducive to the personal and professional development of each individual. To fulfill its missions as an institution of higher learning, it encourages the free exchange of ideas. The University will protect the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition to peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution. Prairie View A&M University maintains its right to regulate reasonable time, place and manner restrictions concerning acts of expression and dissent. Any acts that are disruptive to the normal operations of the universities, including classes and university business, or that invade the rights of others will not be tolerated. Faculty, staff and students engaging in disruptive action may be subject to disciplinary action. Any participant in a disruptive activity may face criminal charges.

3. Use of Free Speech Area

Students or a University-recognized organization (including departments, colleges, and divisions) may sponsor speakers or programs for its own group or for the entire University community. Organizations desiring to sponsor an event on campus must complete the Special Events Occupancy Request Form (See [Administrative Procedure 40.07, Attachment 2](#)). Forms may be obtained from the Student Activities Office. Forms should be submitted five business days prior to the event. Use of the space will be assigned to the person or organization that requests the area first. The University reserves the right to locate any assembly so as to ensure that the activity does not interfere with the normal operation of the University or interfere with the rights of others.

The Free Speech area is: Area immediately adjacent to the water fountain.

4. Guidelines

- 4.1 The time, place and manner of eligible activities may be regulated to prevent unreasonable interference or conflict with the educational, research, outreach, or other legitimate functions of the University.
- 4.2 Activities on campus may not be conducted in a manner that violates:
 - a. federal, state, or local law,
 - b. System Policies or Regulations or University Rules or Procedures or
 - c. applicable fire and safety regulations.
- 4.3 Public area activities shall neither impede pedestrian and vehicular traffic entrances to or exits from University structures, nor disrupt official University activities or University authorized activities.
- 4.4 The affixing or posting of signs, banners, and other material must be approved in advance by the Office of Student Activities.
- 4.5 In furtherance of the educational, research, service and other legitimate functions of the University, no part of the campus is generally available for organized activities before 7 am or after 10 pm, except for official University activities or University authorized activities.
- 4.6 Sound amplification must be approved in advance to help insure that it does not interfere with classes or other activities.

4.7 The sponsoring organization will be responsible for cleaning the activity area of debris and trash.

5. Violations

5.1 Any speaker/presenter who violates any of the provisions of these procedures may be denied approval for future requests to use University property or may be otherwise restricted in their use of University property.

5.2 Any speaker/presenter whose violations of these procedures also constitute violations of federal, state or local laws, System Policies or Regulations, or University Rules or Procedures will be subject to all applicable sanctions of those laws, policies, regulations, rules or procedures.

5.3 Failure to abide by the laws and guidelines described above may result in immediate removal from the campus and any other appropriate action by university officials and/or university police.

**Point of Contact: Vice President for Student Affairs
Vice President for Business Affairs**

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