

IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 51.9315, TEXAS EDUCATION CODE – PROTECTED EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS

The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) is committed to protect the expressive rights of persons guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and of this state by (1) recognizing freedom of speech and assembly as central to the mission of institutions of higher education; and (2) ensuring that all persons may assemble peaceably on the campuses of institutions of higher education for expressive activities, including to listen to or observe the expressive activities of others.

The University of Texas System Board of Regents updated Regents' *Rules and Regulations* 40501, 80101, and 80103 to ensure that the common outdoor areas of UT Dallas are traditional public forums.

UT Dallas updated its policy detailing students' rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities. The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved the policy on May 6, 2020. The policy complies with the requirements of Section 51.9315, Texas Education Code, was in effect before August 1, 2020, and is posted on UT Dallas's website at: <https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5001> . The policy is made available to students during freshman and transfer student orientations and is included in UT Dallas's Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP), which contains the official policies and procedures for the governance of UT Dallas.

UT Dallas trains its employees responsible for educating or disciplining students to ensure they understand the requirements of Section 51.9315, Texas Education Code and UT Dallas's internal policies. These employees received training from experienced staff responsible for freedom of expression activities and policy compliance at another UT institution; in-person training on UT Dallas's amended policy UTDSP5001 – Speech Expression and Assembly; and participated in a national webinar on 'Free Speech and Bias Issues on Campus: Law, Policy, and Practice'.