

The University of Texas at Arlington  
IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 51.9315, TEXAS EDUCATION CODE –

PROTECTED EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS

The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to protecting 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 The University of Texas institutions, including The University of Texas at Arlington are traditional public forums.

The University of Texas at Arlington updated its Free Speech, Expression and Assembly Policy detailing students' rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities: GA-PA-PO1. The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved the policy on May 6, 2020 and it was in effect by the August 1, 2020 deadline. The policy, and its implementing procedure, GA-PA-PR1, complies with the requirements of Section 51.9315, Texas Education Code and are posted on UTA's website at:

<https://secure.compliancebridge.com/utaproductportal/index.php?fuseaction=app.main&cat=126#DocTop>.

All students entering The University of Texas at Arlington for the fall semester were notified of the policy by way of an email; see below. The policy was also made available to all students, faculty and staff online at:

<https://secure.compliancebridge.com/utaproductportal/index.php?fuseaction=app.main&cat=126#DocTop>.

Moving forward, the policy will be made available to students during freshman and transfer student orientation by incorporating it into our print materials and policy disclosures sent via email as well as a presentation regarding UTA's *Community That Cares* initiative with direct links.

The University of Texas at Arlington developed procedures to train employees responsible for educating or disciplining students to ensure they understand the requirements of Section 51.9315, Texas Education Code and UTA's internal policies by developing a site dedicated to free speech policies and resource. This site may be viewed at <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/free-speech>. Training sessions were hosted for staff and student organizations on the following dates:

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| August 25    | Registered Student Organization Officer Fall Training Day, Live Online Session (A video recording of this training is accessible in our online library in Canvas) |
| September 2  | Student Affairs Directors   |
| September 14 | Sent Training Materials to UTA Police Department  |
| September 24 | Fraternity & Sorority Life Staff Meeting  |

In order to notify students about the change in campus free speech policy, an email was sent to all students from our Vice President for Student Affairs. This letter may be viewed at:

<https://cdn.web.uta.edu/-/media/project/website/student-life/student-affairs/free-speech/free-speech-dsa.ashx?revision=c4d58d1b-f0c8-44a0-8a7b-14ad7269b29e>

This report completes The University of Texas at Arlington's compliance requirement related to SB-18 and TEC 51.9315