

08.99.99.R1.01 Invited Speakers

Approved September 3, 2024
Next Scheduled Review: September 3, 2029



Procedure Summary

Texas A&M University-Commerce considers that freedom of expression is of critical importance, ensures free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberations by our students, regardless of whether the students are on or off campus. A&M-Commerce officially recognizes freedom of speech as a fundamental right. Freedom of speech and assembly is central to the mission of the University, and people should be permitted to assemble peaceably on campuses for expressive activities, including listening to or observing the expressive activities of others.

This procedure will guide university organizations, colleges, departments, faculty, and staff when hosting guest speakers on campus.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1 GENERAL

- 1.1 The appearance of a speaker or program on the A&M-Commerce campus does not necessarily mean that the University endorses or supports the views expressed, nor that the sponsoring organization or faculty member necessarily endorses or supports those views.
- 1.2 Any recognized university group may invite a speaker and program and may use university facilities for open or closed meetings, subject to the guidelines in this procedure.

2 POLITICAL SPEAKERS

University resources may not be used to promote political candidates or support political fundraising activities. When an organization plans to extend an invitation to an elected or appointed governmental official, the Office of the President shall be notified so that appropriate courtesies may be extended. (See 07.03.01.R1 *Political Campaign Events in University Facilities*)

3 EXTRA-CLASSROOM SPEAKERS/PROGRAMS

- 3.1 Speakers or programs should be considered in terms of the total educational purpose of A&M-Commerce and planned to satisfy various areas and degrees of interest within this community.
- 3.2 The responsibility for initiating extra-classroom activities rests with the sponsoring organization, which should keep in mind the specific purpose of the particular organization and its place in the larger university community.

4 CLASSROOM GUEST SPEAKERS

- 4.1 A member of the faculty shall be free to invite outside speakers to participate in any class, conference, or institute which is a part of the university educational program.
- 4.2 In such cases, the head of the department involved will be advised in advance of the intention to invite a guest speaker.

5 SPEAKERS OR PROGRAMS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

- 5.1 If an off-campus speaker is to be invited to address an open meeting held by or sponsored by a student organization, the faculty adviser must approve prior to the time that an invitation is extended and publicity is released. No university facility may be reserved without evidence of the approval of the faculty adviser. A current roster of recognized student organizations and their faculty advisers will be maintained by the Office of Student Engagement. (See *08.99.99.R1 Expressive Activity on Campus*)
- 5.2 Publicity and communication concerning any meeting shall clearly identify the sponsoring organization and shall carefully avoid any stated or implied university sponsorship.
- 5.3 If using university facilities, the event must be registered with the [Scheduling Office](#) housed in the Sam Rayburn Student Center.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

University Rule [07.03.01.R1 Political Campaign Events In University Facilities](#)

University Rule [08.99.99.R1 Expressive Activity on Campus](#)

Suspends University Procedure *12.99.99.R0.05 Invited Speakers*

Revision History

Approved March 1, 2005
Revised June 22, 2009
Revised September 8, 2014

Contact Office

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