

legitimate interest that each such party has in obtaining this information. Such record of access shall be available only to the student, to the school official and his/her assistants who are responsible for the custody of such records, and to persons or organizations authorized in, and under the conditions of paragraph 1.a. and 1.c., as a means of auditing the operation of the system.

### **Destruction of Records**

Troy University retains the right, if not otherwise precluded by law, to destroy records as a matter of policy. However, upon written request, a student shall be granted access to and copies of his/her records, which are not excluded by the provisions of paragraph 2, prior to the destruction of such records. Absent such a request on file prior to destruction, no copy of records to be destroyed need be furnished the student.

### **Cost of Copies**

Any copies of records furnished at the request of a student shall be subject to the payment of a reasonable fee, to be established by the university from time to time, for such service. At present, the cost is \$10.00 for official transcripts.

### **Food and Beverages in Classrooms**

Food and beverages are allowed in classrooms at the discretion of individual faculty members, but will not be allowed in computer labs. Further, faculty members allowing food or beverages in classrooms needs to stress to their students the importance of being careful not to spill food and drinks and of properly disposing of cups, wrappers, etc. Abuse of this policy could result in reassessment and/or greater restrictions.

## **Free Speech and Assembly Policy**

### **I. Background**

Alabama State Legislature Act 2019-396 enacted in June 2019 mandated certain free speech and assembly actions applicable to state universities and concurrent with other state and Constitutional freedoms. Complying with provisions of this new law, Troy University fully supports a campus environment that promotes, protects and upholds intellectual freedom of expression contributing to the marketplace of ideas to include those expressions that may be considered unwelcome, unpopular or disagreeable.

### **II. Policy Statement**

Troy University recognizes and supports the role of a university as a marketplace for ideas. Freedom of expression and public assembly are essential components of the education process. Troy University is committed to its function as an institution in which stakeholders discover and disseminate knowledge by means of research and teaching. Further, Troy University supports the rights of students, employees, and visitors to speak in public and to demonstrate for or against actions and opinions with which they agree or disagree.

Such freedom comes with a responsibility to welcome and promote this freedom for all, even in disagreement or opposition. The responsibility of the University to operate and maintain an effective and efficient institution of higher education requires regulation of time, place, and manner of assembly, speech, and other expressive activities on the grounds and facilities of the University. In keeping with this responsibility, students, faculty, and staff are free to exercise the rights to assemble and engage in expressive activity in a constitutionally protected manner subject only to the content-neutral regulations necessary to fulfill the mission and obligations of the University, preserve the rights of

others, coordinate multiple uses of limited space, assure preservation of the campus facilities and grounds, and assure financial accountability for any damage caused by these activities.

It is not the proper role of the University to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment of the United State Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution of Alabama, including, without limitation, ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or offensive.

The University will at all times strive to remain neutral as an institution on the public policy controversies of the day, except as far as administrative decisions on the issues are essential to the day-to-day functioning of the University. The University will not require students, faculty, or staff to publicly express a given view of a public controversy. However, students, administrators, faculty, and staff are free to take positions on public controversies and to engage in protected expressive activity in outdoor areas of the campus, and to spontaneously and contemporaneously assemble, speak, and distribute literature.

In all cases of expressive activity, university employees must be mindful such expression should be in keeping with the mission of the university and do no harm to the university or others.

### **III. Definitions**

**Amplified Sound** is sound that is increased or enhanced by any electric, electronic, or mechanical means, including handheld devices such as megaphones and sound trucks.

**Campus Grounds** means all outdoor areas owned, leased or controlled by the University that are common accessible to all students and employees such as sidewalks, lawns, parking lots, and promenades.

**Demonstration** action by a mass group or collection of groups of people in favor of a political or other cause or people partaking in a protest against a cause of concern; it often consists of walking in a mass march formation and either beginning with or meeting at a designated endpoint, or rally, to hear speakers.

**Debate** is a discussion involving opposite viewpoints in which opposing sides of an issue are advocated and/or presented by differing speakers.

**Expressive Activity** is the verbal or symbolic expression of an idea, thought or opinion and may include speeches, assembly, marches, parades, rallies, picketing, distribution of literature, graphic or pictorial displays and other similar activities intended to communicate an idea or opinion. Expressive Activity does not include speech that is likely to incite or produce imminent lawless action, expression that consists of fighting words or threats of physical harm or expression that is defamatory, obscene or commercial in nature.

**Literature** is any printed material that is produced in multiple copies for distribution or publication to an audience, including but not limited to flyers, handbills, leaflets, placards, bulletins, newspapers, and magazines, but does not include the *Tropitian* or official University material.

**Official University Function** is all activities, events and programs sponsored by an academic or administrative unit of the University.

**Outdoor Forum** is a designated area on campus not confined by walls or a roof. Within this designated area, individuals or groups are encouraged to openly discuss, express, and/or exchange ideas on topics in accordance with university policies.

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