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Facilities and Grounds

Applicability The University of Alabama - All

Facility and Grounds Use Policy

Purpose

The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama, as an independent, constitutional instrumentality of the state, controls The University of Alabama ("the University" or "UA") and, through the University, an enclave created for the pursuit of higher learning, is committed to free and open inquiry and expression for members of the University campus community. Except as limitations on that freedom are appropriate to the functioning of the campus and permissible under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the University will regulate access to University facilities and grounds, including sidewalks on its campus, in a manner that respects and supports the freedom of all members of the campus community "to discuss any problem that presents itself." To that end, this policy provides the University's affiliates appropriate access to University facilities and grounds, while preserving the primacy of the University's significant institutional interest in its teaching, research, and service mission. Among other significant interests of the University, this policy is intended to facilitate responsible stewardship of institutional resources; to protect the educational experience of its students; to preserve the primacy of its teaching and research missions; to ensure health, safety, and order on campus; to regulate competing uses of its facilities and grounds and protect campus property; and protect the safety of those with the right to use its facilities and grounds to engage in protected speech, while also providing opportunities for freedom of expression and assembly that is consistent with the University's teaching, research, service mission.

Use of facilities or grounds of The University of Alabama that are within the scope of this policy by persons, groups, or organizations affiliated or unaffiliated with the University will be handled in accordance with this policy.

Policy

A. General Policy

The grounds and facilities of the University, including the sidewalks on its campus, (hereinafter "space," "campus space," or "University space") are intended primarily for the support of the teaching, research, and service components of its mission [1]. Second priority is given to programs sponsored and conducted by University academic and administrative departments or organizations affiliated with such departments. Beyond these two significant institutional priorities, use of campus space is primarily permitted for activities that are intended to serve or benefit the University community and must not interfere with the academic mission, operation, or significant interests of the University. These significant interests include, but are not limited to, protecting the educational experience of its students; ensuring health, safety, and order on its campus; regulating competing uses of its facilities and grounds as well as protecting campus property; and protecting the safety of those with the right to use its facilities and grounds to engage in protected speech. To the extent any University space is made available for activities or gatherings, including activities of expression (collectively "Events"), the reservation and/or use of such space is subject to this policy as well as all other applicable University policies, procedures, and guidelines along with local, state, and federal laws.

Subject to the terms of this policy, University space generally may not be reserved or used by individuals or organizations that are not part of the University or that are not sponsored [2] by a member of the campus community (i.e., UA faculty, staff, and students), a University academic or administrative department, or student organization (collectively "University affiliates") [3]. A University affiliate that reserves campus space must actively participate in any activity associated with that reservation, including being present for the duration of the Event. Permission to use campus space may be granted only by designated University officials.

1. Who May Use Outdoor Space

Subject to the terms of and exceptions included in the policy, outdoor space generally may only be reserved for or used by the following

- a. University students, administrators, faculty, and staff;
- b. A University academic or administrative unit;
- c. A student organization; or
- d. An individual or organization that is sponsored by (1) the University, (2) a student or student organization, (3) administrator, or (4) a member of the faculty or staff [4].

Individuals or groups who are not University affiliates, may not use the University's outdoor space for an Event (e.g., anything beyond non-disruptive, ordinary, day-to-day conversations and communications such as phone calls, texts, casual conversations, or wearing clothing expressing messages), unless sponsored in accordance with [Section A\(1\)\(d\)](#) and further in compliance with the terms of this Policy.

B. Spontaneous Speech

For University affiliates, all generally accessible outdoor areas of the University campus where members of the campus community are commonly allowed are open for expressive activities [\[5\]](#) except for the following:

- Areas within fifty (50) feet of academic buildings (between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.); and
- Areas within fifty (50) feet of residential housing buildings (between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m.)[\[6\]](#)
- Any spontaneous speech activity during the week prior to final exams or the week of final exams must: 1) be limited to no more than 15 participants, and 2) refrain from making any noise or sounds that can be heard in any adjacent buildings where students may be studying or taking exams.

Reservations for spontaneous or contemporaneous protected expressive activities are not required for University affiliates but are strongly encouraged so that University personnel can be better able to plan for the protection and safety of event participants, including any protesters and counter-protestors, and ordinary logistical and operational concerns, such as lawn irrigation, planned maintenance, and/or other campus operations. Priority for use of the space will be given, first to those with reservations and then on a first-come, first-serve basis based on the order in which the University receives notice. To facilitate the use of campus spaces for speech by the entirety of the campus community, no spontaneous speech or expressive activity event may last more than two hours. A shorter limit of time may be imposed, or the exhibit or demonstration may be relocated by the University, if a reservation has already been made for the desired space and time. Although reservations are not required for spontaneous or contemporaneous protected expressive activities, UA requests that University affiliates notify the University by sending an email to groundspermits@ua.edu with the following information:

- i. Contact information for the event organizer (e.g. name, cellphone number, e-mail, etc.);
- ii. Which areas of campus will be utilized;
- iii. The time the activity is expected to begin and end; and
- iv. A general description of the activity.

University affiliates' use of the generally accessible outdoor areas of the University campus for spontaneous or contemporaneous protected expressive activities may be denied, and an event may be disbanded, in the University's discretion for the following reasons:

- i. The space is already reserved for another event;
- ii. The activity will attract a crowd larger than the venue can safely contain;
- iii. The activity will significantly and substantially disrupt University operations (including classes);
- iv. The activity is a clear and present danger to public safety; or
- v. The activity is unlawful or in violation of this Policy.

An Event that has been advertised or planned more than 36-hours in advance is not spontaneous and must comply with the rules for planned outdoor events set forth in this Policy.

C. Planned Outdoor Events

A University affiliate who seeks to sponsor or engage in expressive activities in an outdoor area of campus is encouraged to contact the University in advance as they are planning or organizing the Event.

An Event must be registered in accordance with [Section F](#) of this Policy if any of the following content and viewpoint neutral circumstances exist:

- i. More than fifty (50) individuals are expected to attend the Event;
- ii. The Event is inviting a speaker who is not a University affiliate;
- iii. Alcoholic beverages may be present at the Event, to the extent allowed by law and University policy;
- iv. The Event plans to set up tables, tents, stages, or similar equipment on campus; or
- v. Minors who are not enrolled at the University are expected to attend.

Each applicant for an Event that is required to register under this Policy must complete an application with the relevant University office. University academic or administrative departments, faculty, and staff members should submit a grounds use permit application with the Department of Facilities and Grounds using the form found on the Grounds Use Permit Coordination webpage. Student organizations and students should submit a student event application form with the Division of Student Life through the Source's Event Smart Registration process. The Department of Facilities and Grounds or the Division of Student Life (each referred to herein as a "University Approving Authority"), as applicable, will coordinate the review process with relevant campus units and advise the applicant of the result of such review and whether the event has been approved.

D. Procedure and Priorities for Designated Space

1. The University of Alabama Student Center

Use of space in The University of Alabama Student Center [\[7\]](#) is governed by The University of Alabama Student [Student Center Reservation Policy](#) and coordinated by The University of Alabama Student Center Director. Any Event taking advantage of this space must register through and fully comply with those Guidelines as well as the applicable restrictions/limitations in this policy related to use of university space. The University of Alabama Student Center is the primary designated location for student displays or activities, which includes opportunities for use of the facility by individual students and student organizations.

2. Academic Buildings

- a. Academic buildings are intended for the primary use and benefit of the academic programs conducted therein. Use of these buildings for academic purposes shall be under the direction and control of the dean responsible for the respective academic building. The Office of the University Registrar manages reservation of space for Fosters Auditorium, Houser Hall, Lloyd Hall, North Lawn Hall, and Russell Hall in conjunction with the respective building representatives for these facilities. Other space must be reserved through the office of the dean responsible for the academic building in accordance with that office's requirements. No space assignments will be

made during final examination periods unless by special permission from the University Provost (or designee). Academic use by departments and colleges has priority over other uses, and organization assignments may be changed or cancelled if conflicts with regular academic programs in the space or building develop. The exterior space immediately adjacent to academic buildings is also intended for the primary use and benefit of the academic programs conducted in the academic building, but use of that exterior space should nevertheless be managed under [Section F](#) (Registration Process for Use of Campus Space) below to avoid scheduling conflicts with other events that may be held on campus.

- b. Student organizations may request the use of space in academic facilities. This space will be assigned on a limited basis under the following conditions:
 1. The intended use is in keeping with the educational purposes of the University.
 2. The intended use does not conflict with the use of the space or building by academic programs or academic organizations or uses of a student organization that has already reserved the space as described in subsection D.2.a. above.
 3. The use of the requested space does not create any logistical, safety, or security issues for the Event. If this is the case, the University reserves the right to postpone the Event and/or provide an alternate, comparable venue of its choosing.
 4. The use of the requested space complies with the University's Use of Academic Space Policy.
- c. Please see the University's [Use of Academic Space Policy](#) for more information on the reservation process for academic facilities.

3. Intercollegiate Athletic Facilities

Bryant-Denny Stadium, Coleman Coliseum, Sewell Thomas Field, Sam Bailey Track and Field, Foster Auditorium, Rhoads Stadium, the tennis stadium/facility, the golf team facilities, the soccer stadium, and athletic indoor and outdoor practice fields and training facilities are owned and maintained by the University for the primary use and benefit of the intercollegiate athletic programs of the University, of allied non-University athletic activities consistent with such programs, and of official academic events of the University. The use of these facilities shall be limited to these purposes unless otherwise authorized by the Athletic Department. Requests for use of all intercollegiate athletic facilities must be made to the Athletic Department. Distribution of materials and holding events pursuant to this policy are not allowed in intercollegiate athletic facilities or within the security perimeter [\[8\]](#) of events held at athletic facilities without the permission of the Athletic Department.

4. Recreation Facilities

The Student Recreation Center and outdoor pool, Robert E. Witt Student Activity Center (Witt Center), Aquatic Complex, tennis courts and intramural fields are intended primarily for student recreational use on an organized group and individual basis. The Department of University Recreation is responsible for scheduling the use of these facilities, which may also require registration pursuant to [Section F](#) (Registration Process for Use of Campus Space)

below.

5. Housing Facilities

Common area spaces (e.g., lobbies, lounges, TV rooms, cafeterias, courtyards, balconies, foyers, etc.) are reserved for use by residents in that particular building or area in accordance with the policy of Housing and Residential Communities.

6. Area in Front of Rose Administration Building and the President's Mansion Lawn/Driveway

The space inside the driveway circle and adjacent median in front of Rose Administration Building is reserved exclusively for use by the University administration and may not be used for gatherings or displays by other University affiliates. These same restrictions apply to the president's mansion lawn and driveway.

7. Commencement Ceremonies

No signs, banners, or other items that block the view of others in the Coliseum are allowed during any University commencement ceremony.

E. General Provisions Applying to All Use of University Space

The following requirements/limitations apply to **ALL** activities or Events involving access to University space:

1. Persons may not block or otherwise interfere with the free flow of vehicular, bicycle, or pedestrian traffic. The right of way on streets and sidewalks must be maintained. Marching or other activity that impedes the free flow of pedestrian or vehicle traffic is prohibited unless prior approval is received from the applicable University Approving Authority (as defined above).
2. Persons may not block or otherwise interfere with ingress and egress into and out of campus buildings.
3. Persons shall not materially and substantially disrupt, interfere with, or attempt to force the cancellation of any event or activity sponsored by the University or by any individual/group authorized to use University space.
4. Where an invited speaker is the object of protest, persons may demonstrate and/or distribute materials in designated areas outside the building where the speech is taking place, subject to the requirements of this policy, which may include registration or notice. Persons who wish to enter the speaking venue must do so as members of the audience and must not materially or substantially disrupt any speaker. Persons should give the speaker a respectful hearing (e.g., do not interrupt, etc.). Signs, placards, or similar paraphernalia associated with a demonstration that are made of heavy material and/or involve sticks or poles shall not be carried into the building. This provision is focused on preventing material and substantial interferences or disruptions. It does not prevent attendees from engaging in silent, nonobstructive protests (e.g., turning their backs on a speaker, etc.) or respectfully engaging a speaker in discussion or debate when the speaker provides that opportunity to the audience.
5. Persons shall not engage in physically abusive or threatening conduct toward any person or

group.

6. Persons shall always comply with the directions of University public safety personnel, including the University of Alabama Police Department (UAPD).
7. Persons shall not prevent, obstruct, or interfere with regular academic and administrative activities.
8. Use of public address systems and amplified sound, including electronic amplification using a bullhorn or any other device that amplifies sound, is only permitted pursuant to the terms of [Section J](#) (Use of Sound Amplification) below. A permit must be obtained from the applicable University Approving Authority before any sound amplification will be allowed.
9. The safety of members of the campus community collectively and individually, as well as the other significant interests of the University as outlined herein, must be protected at all times. The University maintains the right to regulate time, place, and manner restrictions for Events occurring on campus in a viewpoint and content neutral manner to ensure that expressive activity is protected, and that expression does not disrupt the ordinary activities of the institution. This includes, but is not limited to, modifying, disbanding or relocating an Event or activity that conflicts with previously scheduled events in or around that space or that reasonably creates a health or safety risk to persons or risk to property on campus.
10. University property must be protected at all times.
11. Persons on University property may be required to provide identification and evidence of qualification to a University official upon request. Evidence of qualification means evidence that the person is a currently registered student, staff or faculty member at the institution or has lawful activity to pursue at the University that is consistent with the Policy. Failure to provide such evidence may result in discipline against the individual or the event being disbanded.
12. Masks, disguises, and any other means of concealing one's face or identity are prohibited.
13. Persons engaging in activities on University property are subject to and must comply with all applicable University policies and procedures.
14. Any person or group holding an Event on campus must remove all trash and other items associated with the Event (e.g., fencing, stages, tents, tarps, etc.) and return the grounds to pre-Event condition by 10:00 a.m. the following day. For events that are scheduled to end before 5 p.m., such removal must take place within three hours of the scheduled end of the Event. The University will assess the reasonable costs of returning the grounds to pre-Event condition (including damages, labor, repairs, replacement, etc.) and/or cleanup to those persons or organizations failing to comply with this requirement. [\[9\]](#)
15. Candles, fireworks, pyrotechnics, bonfires, and other open flames are not permitted at any Event using University space unless it is a UA-sponsored Event that has been coordinated with the UA Environmental Health and Safety Department, UAPD, and local fire department officials. [\[10\]](#)
16. Misuse/abuse of trees located on UA property is prohibited. Examples of tree misuse/abuse include, but are not limited to, climbing, breaking limbs/branches, use of ropes, wire, hammocks, slack-lines, zip-lines, nails, tape and signage, etc.
17. With the exception of service animals that are trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability, the use of animals in conjunction with an Event is prohibited without prior written approval from the applicable University Approving Authority.

18. No planned outdoor Event registered pursuant to this Policy may last longer than eight hours during a 24-hour period without prior written approval from the applicable University Approving Authority. Likewise, overnight camping or the use of temporary shelters (e.g., tents) is not allowed for any event without prior written approval from the applicable University Approving Authority. Similarly, indoor Events that may last longer than eight hours during a 24-hour period require prior written approval of the college, administrative unit, and/or the building administrator responsible for the space requested.
19. Any Event involving merchandising, commercial activities, and/or the collection of money must also comply with the University's [Campus Merchandising Policy](#).
20. No tables, tents, large signage, stages, patio umbrellas, or similar equipment may be used without the prior written approval of the applicable University Approving Authority.
21. No sticks, poles, or other objects that can reasonably be used as a weapon are allowed at Events. Individuals must comply with the University's Dangerous Weapons and Firearms Policy at all times.
22. The University reserves the right to impound or confiscate any prohibited items in the possession of Event attendees.
23. Participants shall comply with instructions from security personnel, including any instructions related to any security barriers or perimeters deemed necessary by law enforcement personnel to maintain the safety of the Event.
24. Any other activity that reasonably creates a health or safety risk to persons or risk to property on campus.

F. Registration Process for Use of Campus Space [11]

In addition to the requirements and limitations of this policy, all use of University space subject to registration under this [Section F](#) is further governed by the [General Terms and Conditions for Use of University Space](#), which are fully incorporated herein by reference. Any individual or group using University space pursuant to this Section agrees to be bound by those General Terms and Conditions for Use of University Space. Further, all Events that involve alcohol and are required to be registered under this Section are subject to the General Terms and Conditions for Use of University Space.

As set forth above, each applicant for an outdoor Event that is required to register under this Policy must complete an application with the applicable University Approving Authority. University academic or administrative departments, faculty, and staff members should submit a grounds use permit application with the Department of Facilities and Grounds using the form found on the [Grounds Use Permit Coordination webpage](#). Student organizations and students should complete the student event application form may be accessed through [the Source's Event Smart Registration](#) process managed by the Division of Student Life.

To facilitate the review by various University departments that have responsibility for different aspects of an Event (e.g., tents, food service, security, electrical service, etc.), applicants for use of the space are strongly encouraged to request permission for such use at least ten (10) University business days prior to the Event [\[12\]](#). At a minimum, any such request must be made no less than five (5) University business days prior to the planned Event. If the Event does not present logistical complexities, the reservation request will be promptly reviewed and addressed.

If issued, a permit granting use of University space shall specify the boundaries of the area to be used, the date for which the use is approved, the time at which the reservation for the use expires, and any special provision(s) concerning the use of the space.

An application for use of campus space cannot be filed more than one (1) year before the scheduled date of the Event.

G. Activities of Expression

The primary function of a university is to discover and disseminate knowledge by means of research, teaching, discussion, and debate. To fulfill this function, free and open inquiry and expression of ideas is necessary within the University by its University affiliates. At The University of Alabama, freedom of expression and assembly is vital to the pursuit of knowledge. Such freedom comes with a responsibility to welcome and promote this freedom for all, even in disagreement, opposition, or even offense. These principles are set forth in the UA Board of Trustees' Rule 304, and any successor or supplemental rules or resolutions approved by the Board of Trustees.

The University of Alabama supports the right to free expression on campus by University affiliates through rallies, speeches, petitions, vigils, and distribution of materials, among others, provided such an Event complies with this policy and does not disrupt normal University activities, infringe upon the rights of others, or otherwise infringe on the University's significant interests as set forth herein [\[13\]](#). Compliance with this policy should prevent such disruption or infringement. Except as provided for herein, persons who are not members of the University student body, faculty, or staff may only participate in these types of Events upon the invitation of a University affiliate who is actively participating in the Event, including being present for the duration of the Event.

The ideas of different members of the campus community will often and quite naturally conflict, but it is not the proper role of the University to shield or attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Although great value is placed on civility, and while all members of the campus community share in the responsibility for maintaining a climate of mutual respect, concerns about civility and mutual respect can never be used to justify closing off the otherwise lawful discussion of ideas among members of the campus community, however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not, of course, mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. The University may restrict expression or assembly that violates the law or University policy, falsely defames a specific individual, constitutes a genuine threat or unlawful harassment, or unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests. Likewise, the University has a significant interest in protecting the educational experience of its students, in ensuring health, safety, and order on its campus, in regulating competing uses of its facilities and grounds, and in protecting the safety of those with the right to use its facilities and grounds to engage in protected speech, among other significant interests. As a result, the University may regulate the time, place, and manner of expression in a viewpoint and content neutral manner to ensure that these interests are protected, and that expression does not disrupt the ordinary activities of the institution. These are exceptions to the general principle of freedom of expression, and it is vitally important that these exceptions never be used in a manner that is inconsistent with an institution's

commitment to a free and open discussion of ideas among its campus community.

The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees has codified UA's longstanding practice of institutional neutrality. This policy requires that UA remain neutral on political and social issues unless the issue directly affects any aspects of the university's core operations as determined by the Board of Trustees. "It is, therefore, important that UA faculty and staff exercising their First Amendment rights make clear they do not speak on behalf of the university." Further, UA's commitment to respecting the free speech rights of members of the campus community and others should not be construed as an endorsement by UA of any particular speech or expressive activity.

1. Special Guidelines for Material Distribution (e.g., distribution of leaflets, pamphlets, written materials, etc.)

- a. University affiliates may distribute directly to other members of the campus community, without advance approval or notice, non-commercial announcements, statements, or materials in any outdoor area of the campus, the use of which is not otherwise restricted or scheduled [\[14\]](#). For scheduling conflict, site preparation/clean-up, and security purposes, the University requests that a University affiliate organizing the distribution provide the University with notice at least twenty-four (24) hours before the planned distribution. For spontaneous distribution, the University requests that notice be given as soon as practicable. Such notification should be sent to groundspermits@ua.edu and identify/include the following:
 1. Contact information for the event organizer (e.g., name, cellphone number, e-mail, etc.);
 2. The date and time of the planned distribution period;
 3. The proposed locale of the distribution;
 4. A copy of the materials that will be distributed at the event;
 5. The anticipated duration of the distribution period; and
 6. The anticipated number of people expected to take part in the activity.
- b. Persons distributing such materials are expected to refrain from littering and to encourage the same from others. "Distribution" is defined as and limited to individuals handing materials to other individuals who may accept them or refrain from receiving them. An individual's right to privacy must be respected. Thus, no person may attempt to threaten, intimidate, or badger another individual into viewing or accepting a copy of any material. Further, no person may persist in requesting or demanding the attention of another individual who has attempted to walk away or has clearly expressed no interest in the material. For purposes of this section, leaving materials unattended on a surface to be picked up is considered littering, not distribution.
- c. Materials may not be distributed door-to-door or inside of buildings on campus, which includes in residence halls and academic buildings. Further, materials may not be affixed to the outside of University buildings/structures or placed on motor vehicles. Additionally, equipment, such as tables, tents, and chairs, may not be used as part of any distribution activity under this section.

H. Approval of Reservation Applications

Designated University officials, working in conjunction with relevant University partners, will approve an application properly made by an appropriate University affiliate unless one or more of the following conditions are present [\[15\]](#):

1. The applicant has had their/its available privileges, such as the use of certain University space, withdrawn, suspended, and/or restricted.
2. The proposed space is unavailable at the time requested because of conflicting events previously planned in or around that location.
3. The proposed date, time, or requested space is unreasonable given the nature of the Event as well as the substantial and material impact it would have on University resources.
4. The Event would not comply with the provisions of [Section E](#) (General Provisions Applying to All Use of University Space).
5. The Event would reasonably constitute an immediate and actual danger to the health or safety of University students, faculty, or staff, or to the peace or security of the University that available law enforcement officials could not control with reasonable effort.
6. The University affiliate on whose behalf the application is made has on prior occasions damaged University property and has not paid in full for such damage.
7. The requested use of campus space is inconsistent with the terms of University policy.

I. Appeals of Grounds Use Request Denials

1. Student organizations or students whose use of campus space is denied may appeal to the Vice President for Student Life in accordance with the following procedures:
 - a. The student organization or student must file a written appeal to the Office of the Vice President for Student Life no later than five (5) University business days after receiving notice of the denial from the Office of Student Involvement.
 - b. The Vice President for Student Life (or designee), shall convey the appeal decision, in writing, to the student organization or student and to the Office of Student Involvement within a reasonable time after receiving the appeal.
2. Appeals of denials for the use of space in academic building should be filed with the Provost.
 - a. Appeals should be filed in writing with the Office for Academic Affairs within five (5) University business days after receipt of notice of the denial.
 - b. The Provost (or designee), shall convey the appeal decision in writing to the person or organization and to the appropriate academic department within a reasonable time after receiving the appeal.
3. Faculty and staff members whose requests for the nonacademic use of campus space are denied may appeal to the Vice President for Finance and Operations. Additionally, any appeal relating to the use of University space pursuant to [Section G](#) (Activities of Expression) should be directed to the Vice President for Finance and Operations. Furthermore, any other denials for the use of University space not otherwise set forth herein may appeal to the Vice President for Finance and Operations.

- a. Appeals should be filed in writing with the Office of the Vice President for Finance and Operations within five (5) University business days after receipt of the decision that is the subject of the appeal.
 - b. The Vice President for Finance and Operations (or designee) shall convey the appeal decision in writing to the person or organization and to the appropriate administrative unit within a reasonable time after receiving the appeal.
4. The decision of the appropriate Vice President/Provost on any appeal shall be final.

J. Use of Sound Amplification

Events that intend to use sound amplification (e.g., electronic amplification, public address systems, etc.) must apply for a permit pursuant to [Section F](#) of this Policy. Permits for the use of sound amplification will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Only one permit will be provided per space, per group, per time period. Sound Amplification will not be permitted on the following dates: graduation, study week, finals, and official university closures. For events taking place between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, any sound amplification permitted will be restricted to 75 decibels measured 35 feet from the sound source. Weighting A must be used for voice. Weighting C must be used for music.

For events with outdoor sound occurring Sunday through Thursday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday from 7 p.m. to Midnight; Saturday from 8 a.m. to Midnight, and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. there is no decibel limit. However, the amplification must not disrupt the normal functions of the University, unreasonably disturb the surrounding community, or significantly disrupt other scheduled events.

No amplification will be permitted in the following times and places:

- Sunday through Thursday after 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. the following day;
- Friday and Saturday after Midnight until 8 a.m. the following day;
- Areas within 100 feet of academic buildings (between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.); and
- Areas within 100 feet of residential housing buildings (between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m.).

A permit may be denied or revoked if the event is inconsistent with any of the terms of this Policy. University representatives responsible for managing University space (or their designees), which includes UAPD, may require that the volume be lowered or muted if at any time during the Event the sound exceeds the allowable decibel level or the sound significantly or substantially interferes with the academic mission or operation of the University or any other scheduled Event. Failure to comply with such a request will result in the permit being immediately revoked.

The individual listed on the permit as the contact person must be present for the duration of the Event. Permits will be granted with the stipulation that sound will be monitored by the contact person. Any language that is obscene must be terminated by the contact person or the permit will be revoked immediately.

K. Posting Materials, Chalking, & Solicitation

Solicitations, advertisements, promotions, chalking, displays, yard signs or posting materials on The

University of Alabama campus by a University affiliate are permissible as provided herein. All other solicitations, promotions, advertisements, chalking, sales, displays, yard signs or postings on campus are prohibited.

1. Posting Printed Materials (e.g., advertisements, solicitations, information, etc.)

- a. Printed materials may be reasonably posted on designated bulletin boards in accordance with these guidelines. Posting of printed materials in any other location inside campus buildings is prohibited.
- b. Posted materials must not be obscene, illegal, must not be libelous, and must not be directed to and likely to have the effect of inciting or producing imminent lawless action.
- c. Advertisers are responsible for the removal and proper disposal of all advertising materials within 24 hours after the publicized event has occurred or the time limits or conditions of the advertisement have expired.
- d. City codes and state statutes prohibit notices on any curb, tree, mailbox, utility pole, or public building.
- e. Signs placed in the ground with a stake or similar device ("yard signs") may not exceed 18" x 24" in size. Yard signs shall not be placed in flowering or non-flowering landscaping beds, tied to trees, or placed in the areas immediately around Denny Chimes, the President's Mansion, and the Rose Administration Building. The total number of related yard signs allowed on campus per event may not exceed twenty (20). Yard signs placed by students, student groups, faculty, or staff may be reasonably displayed 72 hours before an event and must be removed within 24 hours of the event. Signs must be dated. Before placing a yard sign on campus, University affiliates should complete the temporary signage paperwork available on the [Grounds Use Permit Coordination webpage](#).
- f. Printed materials may not be affixed to the outside of University buildings or structures, both permanent and temporary, including fences and barricades. Similarly, projections onto buildings (including, but not limited to, any projection of words, symbols, images, lights, or colors) are prohibited unless expressly authorized by the University in advance pursuant to [Section F](#) of this Policy.
- g. Placement of printed materials on motor vehicles is prohibited.
- h. Materials may not be distributed door-to-door or inside of buildings on campus, which includes in residence halls and academic buildings.
- i. Permission for display of printed materials or commercial advertisements in or around all University facilities must be approved by the appropriate building director, department, or Dean of the college or school responsible for the building. Permission decisions will be made on a viewpoint neutral basis.
- j. Posted materials that do not comply with this policy may be removed.

2. Chalking

- a. Only student, faculty, or staff organizations are allowed to chalk within the guidelines provided herein.

- b. Chalking is only permitted on natural gray concrete sidewalks that are naturally subject to being washed by the rain.
- c. No chalking can occur on sidewalks or building entrances that are covered by a shelter of any type.
- d. No chalking can be closer than twenty (20) feet to a building. A building structure includes all porches, stairs, and drive-thrus attached thereto.
- e. No chalking is permitted on a vertical surface, including the riser portion of stairs and walls.
- f. Chalking is not permitted on any type of brick, concrete paver, and/or engraved surfaces.
- g. The type of chalk used must be washable and not capable of withstanding several rains. Spray chalk is strictly prohibited. Sidewalk chalk is recommended.
- h. In addition to the foregoing requirements, chalking is prohibited in the following areas:
 - The University of Alabama Student Center Plaza
 - Crimson Promenade
 - The entrance to the south end of the main University Recreation Center
 - Law School and surrounding sidewalks
 - Area in Front of Rose Administration Building
 - President's Mansion driveway and pathways
 - The paved area surrounding Denny Chimes
- i. Removal of chalk in prohibited areas will be handled by the department responsible for the given area.
- j. Please note that all departments have the right to remove chalking for Events registered for that area or if not in compliance with this policy.
- k. No chalking containing commercial solicitations or advertisements are permitted.
- l. Chalking that violates any federal or state law, the University of Alabama Code of Student Conduct, or any other University Policy is prohibited.
- m. Overwriting, erasing, defacing, or altering existing chalking is prohibited by anyone other than the person or organization that made the chalking or University facility and grounds personnel cleaning surfaces in the normal course of their job duties.
- n. All chalking must include the name and contact information of the group or organization that made the chalking.
- o. If any expense is incurred in the removal of chalk because of a violation of the above policies the organization may be held responsible for all expenses and/or subject to disciplinary action. If in violation of K.2.a-K.2.g, University affiliates may be contacted and asked to remove the chalking at their own expense.

L. Violations of these Policy Guidelines

The University reserves the right to enforce these guidelines by all reasonably necessary means to ensure compliance. Events that are or become non-compliant with these guidelines may be cancelled and/or dispersed. Persons who violate these guidelines may be subject to disciplinary action according to the [Code of Student Conduct](#), Employee Handbook, and/or Faculty Handbook as well as potential law enforcement action. Further, costs to clean up or repair damage associated with an Event may be assessed, as applicable, by charging the costs to a student account, a University account, payroll deduction, and/or any and all other methods allowed by law. Persons or groups that repeatedly violate these guidelines may be prohibited from further use of University space. A University affiliate who invites a non-University individual or group onto campus for an Event may be held responsible for that individual or group's compliance with this and other University policies. A non-University participant's failure to comply with this policy may result in appropriate action under state or federal law.

Scope

This policy applies to persons, groups, and organizations affiliated or unaffiliated with the University.

Notes

- [1] Campus space includes all property owned, leased, or controlled by the University and any affiliated foundation or health care entity, including buildings and outdoor premises, such as parking lots and other outdoor property.
- [2] University affiliates, rather than the University, decide which activities of expression and/or assembly they may wish to sponsor.
- [3] A "student organization" is (a) one that is properly registered with the University's Office of Student Involvement that has not had its available privileges, such as the use of University space, withdrawn, suspended and/or restricted; or (b) a group seeking official registration with the University's Office of Student Involvement composed of admitted students that receive or are seeking to receive benefits through the University.
- [4] A student organization, administrator, or a member of the faculty or staff, rather than the University, decides which activities of expression and/or assembly they may wish to sponsor.
- [5] Protected Expressive activity is speech and other conduct protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022. It includes the following:
- a. Communication through any lawful verbal, written, or electronic means.
 - b. Participating in peaceful assembly.
 - c. Protesting.
 - d. Making speeches.
 - e. Distributing literature.

- f. Making comments to the media.
- g. Carrying signs or hanging posters.
- h. Circulating petitions.

For the purposes of this Policy, however, the term does not include expression that relates solely to the economic interests of the speaker and its audience and proposes an economic transaction.

[6] These exceptions do not apply to non-disruptive, ordinary, day-to-day conversations and communications (e.g., phone calls, texts, casual conversations, or wearing clothing expressing messages).

[7] This space includes The University of Alabama Student Center Plaza and lawn in front of The University of Alabama Student Center as well as the Crimson Promenade, which is the area from the top of The University of Alabama Student Center Plaza steps to the 175th Anniversary Commemorative Gate.

[8] Law enforcement will determine the appropriate security perimeter for athletic events/facilities based on the circumstances of the event and situation.

[9] In situations involving the distribution of materials under this policy, the person or group distributing the materials will not be held responsible for acts of littering by individuals who voluntarily accepted the distributed materials but did not dispose of them properly. However, individuals distributing such materials are expected to refrain from littering and to encourage the same from others.

[10] Fires are permitted in permanent, properly maintained, and working internal fireplaces located on campus.

[11] Again, University affiliates have the right to engage in spontaneous activities of expression as provided for in this policy, subject to compliance with applicable University rules. **Please closely review the requirements of this policy to determine if registration is required under [Section F](#) (Registration Process for Use of Campus Space).**

[12] A University business day means any day when the University is in operation. It does not include Saturdays, Sundays, and University holidays or other days when normal business operations are suspended.

[13] Individual students may obtain a GUP to host an outdoor Event involving activities of expression.

[14] These guidelines for material distribution do not apply to Student Government Association Elections, which are subject to the requirements of the [SGA Elections Manual](#).

[15] If an Event is not originally approved, changes may be suggested to help correct any deficiencies and bring the requested Event into compliance with University policy.

Applicability

College of Community Health Sciences, The University of Alabama - Public, The University of Alabama - Secured

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