

PROCEDURE LIT.1.05.01
OFF-CAMPUS SPEAKERS IN COLLEGE FACILITIES

SCOPE: Faculty, Staff, Students, and Guests

Students, faculty, staff, and student organizations may present off-campus speakers in Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) facilities in accordance with the following procedure:

1. A student, faculty member, staff member, or student organization may request permission to host an off-campus speaker in one of LIT's limited public forums by submitting a written request to the Associate Vice President of Student Services (AVPSS).
 - 1.1. Such written request must be made at least fourteen (14) business days in advance of the proposed date of the event, and the written request must contain the name of the requestor; the proposed date, time and location of the event; the expected size of the audience; and the topic of speech.
 - 1.2. No invitation shall be issued to an outside speaker without prior written approval by the AVPSS.
 - 1.3. In reviewing such requests, the AVPSS will consider only content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral criteria related to the needs of the event, including, for example, the proposed venue and expected size of audience; any anticipated need for campus security; and any necessary accommodations. The AVPSS will not consider any anticipated controversy related to the event.
2. If the request for an outside speaker is approved and the speaker accepts the invitation, the sponsoring faculty, staff, student, or student organization must inform the AVPSS immediately, in writing, of such acceptance. The student, staff, faculty member, or student organization must make clear at the beginning of the speaking event that the student, staff, faculty member, or student organization, and not LIT, is extending the invitation to speak and that any views the speaker may express are the speaker's own and not necessarily those of LIT.
3. A request by a student, student organization, faculty, or staff to host an off-campus speaker in one of the LIT's limited public forums may be denied if the AVPSS determines that the proposed speech will constitute a clear and present danger to LIT's orderly operation(s). In the event a request is denied, the sponsor may appeal the decision to the Provost/Vice President of Instruction, whose decision shall be final.
 - 3.1. Such appeal must be in writing and must be made within three (3) business days of the denial.
4. Speakers asked to speak on campus and who are to be paid from State funds shall speak in a facility that is open to the public. In reviewing such speaker requests, LIT will consider only content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral criteria related to the needs of the event, including, for example, the proposed venue and expected size of the audience; any anticipated need for

campus security; and any necessary accommodations. The College will not consider any anticipated controversy related to the event. No person may obstruct or lessen in any way the opportunity for the audience to see and/or hear the speaker. Students, student organizations, staff, or faculty who unduly interfere with the expressive activity of others on campus may be subject to disciplinary action. This subsection does not apply to classes, seminars, symposia and conferences intended for the use and benefit of students, faculty, staff and invited guests.

5. Off-campus speakers who have not been sponsored or invited by a student organization, faculty or staff organization or by the college administration shall be prohibited from speaking in the campus's designated limited public forums unless the speaker is speaking to an off-campus organization that has been authorized to meet on campus.
6. The College may, in its sole discretion, lease or rent space for political rallies and similar events. In arriving at its decision, the College will consider only content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral criteria related to the needs of the event, including, for example, the proposed venue and expected size of the audience; any anticipated need for campus security; and any necessary accommodation. The College will not consider any anticipated controversy related to the event.
7. Subject to the reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, students, student organizations, faculty, staff, and members of the public may assemble and/or present speakers in the College's public forum area(s) without prior notice to or approval from the College.

Related Policies: LIT.1.05 Freedom of Speech and Expression

Relevant Forms/Documents:

Relevant TSUS Policies/Forms/Documents: TSUS Rules and Regulations Chapter VII. General Provisions for Campus Activities, Section 3. Speech and Assembly

Relevant Statutes: Texas Penal Code section 48.05, Texas Education Code section 51.9315, Texas Education Code 37.123

Relevant SACSOC Standards:

Document History:

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