

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM**

SECTION: General Administration

NUMBER: 01.B.06

AREA: Facilities and Physical Plant

SUBJECT: Facilities Reservation and Rental

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The responsibility of the Board of Regents to operate and maintain an effective and efficient system of institutions of higher education requires that guidelines be developed to direct activities on the grounds and in the buildings and facilities of the University of Houston System (UH System) components. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that facilities owned or controlled by the UH System are maintained and used for the roles and missions of each UH System component.
- 1.2. This policy has been developed pursuant to Chapters 51 and 111 of the Texas Education Code to ensure that all space and facilities owned and/or controlled by the UH System are used for purposes that benefit the UH System, its faculty, staff, and students, and which serve a valid public purpose. This policy is applicable to all UH System facilities and grounds.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. Auxiliary Space: Area of a university campus that is not supported through State of Texas appropriations.
- 2.2. Education & General (E&G) Space: Net assignable area used for academic instruction, research, and support of the institution's mission. It does not include auxiliary enterprise space or space which is permanently unassigned. E&G space is supported primarily from state appropriated funds.
- 2.3. General Purpose Classroom: A classroom used for academic instruction that is not totally within the designation of an academic department. All classrooms are considered E&G space.
- 2.4. Grounds: All exterior acreage not covered by buildings, including plazas, parks, parking lots, roadways, and any other outside space.
- 2.5. Lessee: Any individual or group, whether internal or external to the System or one of its components, or whether sponsored or not sponsored (in the case of external individuals or groups), who reserves and uses any university facility or space for a purpose other than that for which it is provided.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. Facilities owned or controlled by the UH System are to be used for the purpose of supporting the UH System's mission of teaching, research, and public service. UH System facilities are not available for unrestricted use for other purposes. However, UH System facilities may be reserved/rented by internal or external individuals, groups, or organizations for other purposes as long as such use does not interfere with the purposes for which the facilities are provided.

4. POLICY PROVISIONS

- 4.1. For the purpose of this policy, UH System facilities are essentially classified into three categories. Most are categorized as E&G and are supported primarily by state appropriated funds. Others are auxiliary facilities, which are supported by locally generated funds and receive no income from state appropriations. All other space falls into the grounds category.
- 4.2. E&G space may be used for non-E&G purposes. Under certain conditions described in this SAM, such use shall be subject to charges that, at minimum, ensure recovery of that part of the operating cost of the facility attributable directly or indirectly to such use.
- 4.3. Organizations associated with the UH System or one of its components may request the use of E&G space for non-E&G purposes on a first-come, first-served basis at no rental charge (though fees to recover certain costs may be assessed). Persons or organizations not associated with the UH System or one of its components may use E&G space on a first-come, first-served basis, and this use shall be subject to rental fees. Rental fees may be waived if the event is sponsored. (See 4.4.)

The UH System and its components have absolute preemptive priority over all non-System persons or groups. The UH System and its components reserve the right to cancel, postpone, or alter arrangements for any event.

- 4.4. Events may be sponsored only by a university administrative, academic, or student unit, not an individual. Sponsorship includes being actively involved in the event, monitoring its progress, and taking overall responsibility for its success and policy compliance. Sponsoring organizations include the following:
- Colleges, divisions, or departments of a university
 - Organized faculty or staff bodies (i.e., Faculty Senate, Staff Council, etc.)
 - Officially recognized student organizations
 - Academic and/or administrative committees consisting substantially of persons conducting official university business

- 4.5. If it is available, auxiliary space may be reserved and used, subject to pre-approved rental rates and/or other terms and conditions set by the UH System, the component, and/or the group with oversight authority over the space. Sponsorship is not required.
- 4.6. Persons or organizations wishing to use UH System facilities for purposes other than those for which the space is provided must submit some form of written request, as stipulated by each component, to the appropriate reservation office or unit with oversight authority over the space.
- 4.7. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the UH System is obligated to ensure that its programs, practices, policies, or procedures do not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Persons or organizations wishing to use UH System facilities must comply with all ADA standards as a condition for such use.
- 4.8. Food and Beverages:
 - 4.8.1. For reservations involving food and beverage service in facilities where the university food service provider has exclusive rights, all arrangements must be made through the campus food service provider. Catering services may be used in facilities where food service is permitted; however, it is recommended that the campus food service provider be contacted first because they are familiar with on-campus facilities and are generally able to respond more quickly and with greater flexibility than other providers. Off-campus providers must show proof of insurance and provide a temporary alcohol license if serving alcohol. Individuals and groups are prohibited from bringing in food and beverage to be served at events without proper approval by the appropriate component authority.
 - 4.8.2. The System has an exclusive contract with the Coca-Cola Bottling Company to supply cold beverages (defined as all forms of non-alcoholic liquids intended for human consumption and all beverages bases from which these can be prepared. Does not include (i) milk, (ii) flavored milk, (iii) fresh brewed coffee and tea, whether served hot or cold, (iv) fresh brewed hot chocolate, (v) soups, (vi) fresh squeezed juices, (vii) unflavored tap, faucet or fountain water drawn directly from the public water supply, and (viii) non-alcoholic beer) such that only Coca-Cola products may be sold or given away in conjunction with events held on campus. Questions regarding compliance with this requirement should be directed to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration.

4.8.3. Alcohol:

- a. It is the System's policy that all members of the university community and guests are required to comply with federal, state, and local laws regarding the possession, consumption, and distribution of alcoholic beverages.
- b. Possession, consumption, or distribution of alcoholic beverages in public areas is subject to each component's policies and procedures governing such activities.

4.9. Each component must comply with federal guidelines for Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT) when renting facilities to a non-university lessee. Components should contact the Office of Tax Compliance in this situation, especially when providing services with the rental (beyond customary utility and custodial services) and when the non-university lessee is not an exempt organization.

4.10. Use of UH System facilities for political campaign purposes is generally prohibited. Political candidates (incumbents, new office seekers, members of their staff, or their campaign representatives) are not permitted to reserve UH System facilities for political campaign events. Officially recognized student organizations may sponsor political activities (forums, debates, etc.) in accordance with all applicable UH System and component rules.

4.11. The UH System may permit use of certain facilities and premises for commercial purposes (movie shoot location, print and television advertising, etc.). Use of UH System facilities and premises for such purposes shall be and remain subject to all of the following factors:

- a. minimal disruption of the academic and business functions of the UH System or component;
- b. compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, ordinances, agency opinions, and UH System and/or component policies and procedures;
- c. restoration of facilities after completion; and
- d. enhancement of the reputation of the UH System.

4.12. Any use of UH System nomenclature or graphic elements must be approved in advance through the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for University Relations.

- 4.13. Exceptions to this policy regarding the scheduling and use of UH System facilities are granted by the Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration, or the component's chief financial officer or designee.
- 4.14. Each component shall develop and implement procedures to ensure compliance with this Administrative Memorandum, under which individuals and organizations may reserve the facility for their use. They should include a rate schedule for the use of facilities, and procedures for the assessment, collection, and handling of all appropriate fees.

5. REVIEW AND RESPONSIBILITY

Responsible Party: Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration

Review: Even Numbered Years on or before March 1

6. APPROVAL

Approved: Arthur K. Smith
Chancellor

Date: August 30, 2000

7. INDEXING TERMS

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E&G space
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