



## REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 51.9315, TEXAS EDUCATION CODE – PROTECTED EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) is committed to protect the expressive rights of persons guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and of this state by:

- (1) recognizing freedom of speech and assembly as central to UTRGV's mission as an institution of higher education organized under the laws of the State of Texas; and
- (2) ensuring that all persons may assemble peaceably on UTRGV's campuses for expressive activities, including to listen to or observe the expressive activities of others.

The University of Texas System Board of Regents updated its *Rules and Regulations* [40501](#), [80101](#), and [80103](#) to ensure that the common outdoor areas of UTRGV are traditional public forums. UTRGV and its activities are subject to the *Rules and Regulations* of the UT System Board of Regents.

UTRGV has updated its policy detailing students' rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities, UTRGV Handbook of Operating Procedures Policy [ADM 02-300 Speech, Expression, and Assembly](#). The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved ADM 02-300 on May 6, 2020. ADM 02-300 complies with the requirements of Section 51.9315 of the *Texas Education Code* and currently is posted on UTRGV's website as part of its Handbook of Operating Procedures at the following link: <https://www.utrgv.edu/hop/policies/adm-02-300.pdf>. This policy is made available to students during freshman and transfer student orientations, and is included in UTRGV's [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) catalogs. UTRGV considers its Handbook of Operating Procedures to be its "personnel handbook."

Since September 1, 2019, UTRGV has developed and implemented trainings for its employees responsible for educating or disciplining students, to ensure these employees understand the requirements of Section 51.9315 of the Texas Education Code, ADM 02-300, and applicable internal procedures. UTRGV also addresses common questions related to expressive activities on campus through Frequently Asked Questions available on its website at <https://www.utrgv.edu/studentlife/policies-and-academic-information/free-speech-expression-and-assembly/index.htm>.