



## TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

### Operating Policy and Procedure

#### **OP 30.13: Visiting Speakers**

**DATE:** April 12, 2024

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Operating Policy/Procedure (OP) is to ensure that all employees associated with Texas Tech University comply with a single philosophy and procedure in the consideration and use of visiting speakers.

**REVIEW:** This OP will be reviewed in April of odd-numbered years by the Vice Provost for Student Life, the Vice Provost for Administrative Affairs, and the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel with substantive revisions presented to the Provost and Senior Vice President.

#### **POLICY/PROCEDURE**

Section 08.08, *Regents' Rules*, requires each component institution of the TTU System to develop “policies necessary for the administration of free speech activities, including placing reasonable restrictions upon the time, place, and manner of on-campus speech.”

The authorization for all on-campus speakers will be under the direction and responsibility of the President of the university. The following policy statement is in accordance with Section 08.08, *Regents' Rules*, regarding on-campus speakers.

1. Texas Tech University’s policy regarding freedom of expression, including visiting speakers, is governed by Texas Tech University [System Regulation 07.04](#).
2. This OP applies to all persons who wish to speak within the physical confines of Texas Tech University unless such person is a regular employee or student of the TTU System. Members of the Board of Regents are also exempt from the application of this OP.
3. No individual or group shall be denied the right to speak within the physical confines of Texas Tech University solely because the views sought to be advocated differ from those of the Board of Regents, its members, the Chancellor, the university President, or another officer or employee of the university.
4. To the extent permitted by applicable law, access to speak within the physical confines of Texas Tech University may be denied to those who advocate imminent illegal action, including but not limited to:
  - a. Lawlessness or disregard for the laws of the United States or the State of Texas;
  - b. A change to the laws of the United States or the State of Texas by other than constitutionally or statutorily prescribed processes; or

c. The violent overthrow of the government of the United States or the State of Texas.

In determining the likely conduct or speech of the proposed speaker, appropriate consideration shall be given to relevant past performance of the proposed speaker.

Information about requesting space to host a speaker event may be obtained on the [Events FAQ page](#). Arrangements for the payment of professional fees and expenses for speakers must be made through administrative channels in advance. Payment usually is made through a *Check Issuance Request* for professional services. These forms are available from Accounts Payable. If expenses involve petty cash, receipts are essential.