



System Ethics & Compliance Office  
**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711-2428

November 25, 2020

RE: Combined Report of **The Texas A&M University System** Institutions – SB 18/ Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 51.9315, *Protected Expression on Campus*

Dear Governor Abbott:

Senate Bill 18, passed by the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2019) and codified in Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 51.9315, requires, by December 1, 2020, all institutions of higher education to prepare, post on the institution's Internet website, and submit to the governor and the members of the legislature “a report regarding the institution’s implementation” of this new law. § 51.9315(k).

To comply with this new law, the System Ethics and Compliance Office and the Office of General Counsel provided a template rule to system members on July 31, 2019. See Exhibit “A.” Members could modify the template to fit the particular needs of their campus. Members submitted a draft rule for review by December 13, 2019. After review and approval for legal sufficiency each institution’s rule was submitted to the A&M System Board of Regents for approval. The Board of Regents approved the rules on May 14, 2020. See Exhibit “B.” The rules have been posted to each institution’s website.

Attached as Exhibits C-M are the individual reports of the A&M system institutions. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (979) 458-6008 or [janetgordon@tamus.edu](mailto:janetgordon@tamus.edu).

Best regards,

Janet Gordon  
System Ethics and Compliance Officer

cc: Members of the Texas Legislature

Attachments: Exhibits A-M

Exhibit A – Template Rule Provided to Members

Exhibit B – Agenda Items 5.1 & 5.2 (including member rules)

Exhibit C – Report of Texas A&M University

Exhibit D – Report of Prairie View A&M University

Exhibit E – Report of Tarleton State University

Exhibit F – Report of Texas A&M International University

Exhibit G – Report of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Exhibit H – Report of Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Exhibit I – Report of West Texas A&M University

Exhibit J – Report of Texas A&M University-Commerce

Exhibit K – Report of Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Exhibit L – Report of Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Exhibit M – Report of Texas A&M University-San Antonio

# Exhibit H

## **Exhibit H**

### **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - KINGSVILLE**

#### **A. Provision of Speech Rule to Employees and Students**

Texas A&M University – Kingsville has made its speech rule available to employees by placing it in the faculty handbook and by publishing to the official university rules website.

Texas A&M University – Kingsville has made its speech rule available to students by placing it in the student handbook, by publishing to the official university rules website, and by implementing distribution to students during orientation.

#### **B. Materials, Programs, and Procedures**

To ensure that the university's employees responsible for educating or disciplining students understand the requirements of the new university speech, the university has taken the following actions:

1. A copy of this rule shall be provided electronically to university employees and students on an annual basis.
2. A copy of this rule shall be included in any university published student handbook and faculty handbook.
3. A copy of this rule shall be provided to students during the university's new student orientation program.
4. A copy of this rule shall be posted to the university's website.