

11.99.99.R0.03 Assignment and Renovation of Space For Academic Purposes

Approved September 1, 1996
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Procedure Statement

Appropriate allocation of university facilities is essential to the proper delivery of student services and instructional programs. In accord with institutional effectiveness expectations, decisions regarding the assignment of physical facilities for any purpose must take into consideration the physical facility needs of the entire campus community.

Reason for Procedure

This procedure establishes the oversight authority for the utilization of academic space. It also identifies parameters to be used when assigning classrooms. Additionally, this procedure is used as part of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) mandate that state universities develop and establish a Facility Inventory Manual that lays out guidelines for space utilization on campus and procedures regarding Facilities Space Inventory Control.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. ASSIGNMENT OF ACADEMIC SPACE

1.1 The provost and vice president for academic affairs (provost) has the final responsibility for assigning all space on the university campus that is used for academic purposes.

1.1.1 Assignment of Classroom Space

1.1.1.1 Initial classroom assignments are made within each academic department as the schedule of classes is being developed for an upcoming semester.

1.1.1.2 If additional classroom or class lab space is needed, the Office of the Registrar assists departmental assistants to locate available spaces that are on THECB classroom inventory.

1.1.1.3 All scheduling of classroom and class lab space will be done in a manner that maximizes utilization standards established by THE THECB. (See Appendix A)

1.1.1.4 Unless a justification using the facilities demand factor (as defined by THECB) can be made, rooms or labs that are not on the approved course inventory at the THECB may not be utilized for classroom space. Room/labs can be viewed online at the [THECB Facilities Inventory](#). For more detailed information, contact the coordinator of catalog, curriculum, and class schedule.

1.2.1 Assignment of Academic Office Space

1.2.1.1 Full-time faculty will have a private (single) office, if possible.

1.2.1.2 Emeritus faculty, faculty on modified employment, part-time and adjunct faculty, teaching assistants, and graduate assistants will be assigned office space, as available.

1.2.1.3 Whenever possible, all members of a unit or program will be assigned contiguous space.

2. RENOVATION AND REALLOCATION OF SPACE

2.1 Requests for renovation, expansion, or reassignment of physical facilities will occur through regular administrative channels to the provost, in accord with the University Master Plan. Criteria to be considered in evaluating these requests include the following:

2.1.1 Configuration of facilities and amount of space assigned or reassigned should be appropriate to the needs of the service or program to be delivered.

2.1.2 Renovation of space to fit the needs of a service or program should be kept to a minimum.

2.1.3 Prior to finalizing reallocation of office, classroom, laboratory, or other space, affected faculty and/or staff will have an opportunity to provide input as to how such moves may impact their particular programs.

2.1.4 All reallocation of space will be reviewed and approved the President's Advisory Council.

4. REPORTING OF CLASSROOM UTILIZATION

4.1 The Division of the Vice President for Student Access and Success is responsible for reporting classroom utilization.

4.1.1 The Office of the Registrar is responsible for working with facility personnel for reporting the classroom utilization report to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

4.1.2 The Office of the Registrar has the authority to reassign classroom spaces when necessary to improve classroom utilization.

5. NON-ACADEMIC CLASSROOM SPACE

5.1 Non-academic classroom space is scheduled by the Scheduling Office located in the Sam Rayburn Student Center. Information concerning regulations and procedures for scheduling may be obtained from that office or online.

5.2 Individuals should contact the Academic Scheduling Office to request to use a space.

5.3 Reservations can be made in person at the student center or online by submitting a Campus Events and Service Checklist application.

5.4 The space requested should be appropriate to the needs of the program/activity to be delivered.

6. SUMMARY

6.1 In any given situation, the overall best interests of the university will prevail over the interests of a particular service or program.

6.2 All individuals using both academic and non-academic facilities must adhere to the established policies and procedures for space.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[System Policy Section 11](#)

[THECB Facilities Inventory](#)

[THECB Space Usage Efficiency Model](#)

[A&M-Commerce Scheduling Office Procedures](#)

APPENDIX A The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board CLASSROOM SPACE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has required the following weekly utilization factors:

Classrooms (38 classroom hours per week)
Class labs (25 classroom hours per week)

A new [Space Usage Efficiency](#) model (SUE) has been developed and is available online.

The **SUE FORMULA** includes factors that take into account the following for determining utilization:

Facilities Demand

The facilities demand measure connects the supply (number of classrooms or class labs) with the demand (number of activities scheduled that require rooms). This measure is calculated identical to the Utilization measure but includes hours from classes that are not taught in classrooms.

Utilization Rate:

This is an effective measure to identify the actual use of the individual rooms. The current utilization guidelines is 38.0 hours per week (HPW) for classrooms (room type 110) and 25.0 HPW for class laboratories (lab type 210)

Average Percent Fill:

It is necessary to determine the number of seats occupied when a room is in use to determine the appropriateness of use, need for additional facilities, and opportunities for optimization. Classrooms will need to be utilized to the maximum number of seats wherever possible. For example; a room with 125 seats will need to be utilized for the larger classes whenever possible.

Standards

Based on the performance measures SUE goals for classrooms and class laboratories, as well as an overall performance standard, have been developed. **A total score of 75 (or above) for either the classroom or class laboratory area is the standard. Overall, a score of 150 (or above) is deemed to have met the standard for overall space usage efficiency.***

*Had the above standards been in place for the fall 2009 CBM005 Report, the overall score for A&M-Commerce would have been 109/150 (41/75 for classrooms and 68/75 for class labs). This yields a score that is below standard.

Beginning fall 2010, rooms utilized at the Metroplex Center in Mesquite will no longer factor into the SUE formula. Currently, A&M-Commerce has 88 classrooms and 23 class labs reportable on the CBM005. Once the Metroplex rooms are removed, it will bring us to 79 classrooms. However, it is still predicted that the score will be below standard.

Recommendation: To be efficient and meet the standard, the facilities advisory committee will need to recommend closing or changing several more classrooms.

Contact Office

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
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