

**Label: SGAR- 52003**

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**Committee: Student Life**

**Endorsement of Special Event Academic Disruption Policy**

**Whereas,** The Athletic Advisory Committee has requested the advice and endorsement of the proposed policy by the Student Government Association and,

**Whereas,** the Faculty Senate will be undergoing the same process,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the 52nd Administration of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Endorses the following proposal:

Recommendations for Dealing with Major Weekday Events Likely To Disrupt Regular Academic Functions

Background and General Concerns:

The recommendations below come from the Academic Subcommittee of the Athletic Advisory Committee with the intention of being pro-active regarding future high profile athletic events and campus disruptions. The Committee is aware – but the general UH community may not be – that in some cases game schedules and game times may not be available until two weeks prior to the contest but are also outside the control of the institution and heavily influenced by television broadcasts and the Conference office.

These recommendations also spring from complaints and concerns gathered in fall 2015 when the success of the football program brought many hundreds and thousands of new visitors to the UH campus, at least once on a Thursday evening and for Saturday day and evening games.

It is recommended that any pro-active strategy for reducing disruptions include timely, accurate and frequent communications targeted regarding parking restrictions and alternative options to a) faculty, b) students – both commuters and those who live on-campus, c) and staff. In addition, flexibility in work schedules is an added consideration for staff and managers and might be addressed as well.

Specific questions/concerns raised during subcommittee discussions were:

- Can communications that threaten to tow staff/faculty/student vehicles be eliminated?
- Lots that will be closed to incoming permits should be closed at the stated time – not earlier
- Is it really necessary to restrict faculty and staff parking in the entire stadium garage?

Anecdotally, it seems that there were many empty spaces on or during games last year.

- There are essential functions that must be performed on Saturdays by faculty and/or graduate students and post-baccalaureate students (e.g., monitoring labs, conducting experiments, feeding lab animals). Is it possible to grant access to restricted parking areas to those with faculty identifications? This would require educating the lot attendants who are not UH or Athletic staff but subcontractors.

#### Recommendations:

The Academic Subcommittee's recommendations center on (a) notifying the university community of the event on a timely basis and (b) the impact of the event on campus parking.

#### A. Notifying the Campus Community

1. The University recognizes that some co- or extra-curricular events are worth hosting even if the event may disrupt normal academic activities. University Administration should be notified as early as possible when major events occurring during normal school hours are planned or contemplated. The Administration and event organizers will coordinate to minimize or eliminate academic disruption to the maximum extent possible.

2. University administration should provide early notice to students, staff, and faculty when any major event during the week will be held.

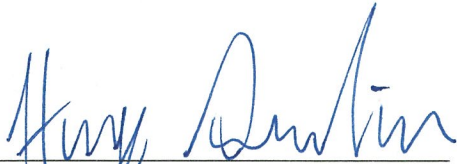
a. Faculty should be reminded of options to modify class schedules or requirements in light of the event. For weeknight (Thursday or Friday) football games, the Office of the Registrar (OAR) should identify the number of classes that could be impacted and work with the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Office of Communications and the Provost to notify affected faculty and students.

b. Supervisors should be encouraged to offer flexible staff work schedules if possible to help minimize parking conflicts and reminders should be sent 10 days in advance regarding the possibilities of adjusting schedules.

3. Students, staff and faculty who must drive to campus on the day of the event should be provided options to minimize disruption to the extent possible considering the nature of the event. A public education campaign should be developed and implemented for special events, encouraging students, staff, and faculty to consider alternate transportation options on event days. Options to include: carpooling, Metro bus and Metrorail – even if these are not usually considered by the commuter.

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**

Student Government Association



Hugo Salinas  
Speaker of the Senate  
University of Houston – Main Campus

Date of Senate Approval: 3-23-16



Shaun Smith  
Student Body President  
University of Houston – Main Campus

Date of President's Approval: 3-24-16

**APPROVED**

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