

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER REPORT

IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 51.9315, TEXAS EDUCATION CODE –

PROTECTED EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (“UT Southwestern”) 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 the mission of institutions of higher education; and (2) ensuring that all persons may assemble peaceably on the campuses of institutions of higher education for expressive activities, including to listen to or observe the expressive activities of others.

The University of Texas System Board of Regents updated Regents’ Rules and Regulations 40501, 80101, and 80103 to ensure that the common outdoor areas of UT Southwestern are traditional public forums.

UT Southwestern drafted a policy detailing students’ rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities. The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved the policy on May 6, 2020. The policy complies with the requirements of Texas Education Code Section 51.9315 and is posted on UT Southwestern’s website at: <https://utsouthwestern.edu/legal/protected-expression.html>. The policy is made available to students during new student and transfer student orientations and is included in the UT Southwestern General Catalog. The policy is also included in UT Southwestern’s Handbook of Institutional Policies and Operating Procedures.

UT Southwestern provided information and developed procedures to train employees responsible for educating or disciplining students to ensure they understand the requirements of Texas Education Code Section 51.9315 and UT Southwestern’s internal policies.