

University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Regulations Regarding Use of University Property

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Introduction

As noted in the University of Rhode Island's [Mission Statement and consistent with University values](#), the University of Rhode (also "University" or "URI") is committed to high-quality education, community engagement, and the freedom to learn, teach, create, and conduct research with integrity in the pursuit and dissemination of new knowledge aimed at contributing to the public good. The management of University Property and other resources is paramount to meeting that mission.

Authority and Applicability

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §§ 16-32-2 and 16-32-2.1, the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees is empowered to make rules and regulations for the control and use of University Property while the President of the University is responsible for the general management of University Property.

These regulations apply to all users of University Property, including all members of the University community (students, faculty, staff, and affiliates) and third parties (individuals, groups, and members of the public) who wish to use any University Property for any purpose.

Definitions

University Operations. All teaching, research, community engagement, and business functions, as well as any other official activity of the University.

University Property. Property belonging to the State of Rhode Island and held in trust by the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees; property held by the University of Rhode Island or any of its component units in its own name; and property owned by third parties but assigned to, occupied by, or managed by the University or any of its component units. University Property includes all real property, including without limitation land, buildings and other structures, fences, driveways and walkways, and other permanent improvements and associated infrastructure. For the purposes of these regulations, property leased or licensed to a third party is excluded from the definition of University Property.

1. General

The primary purpose of University Property is to support the University's mission. Every individual and group using University Property is expected to use it in a manner that (i) complies with all applicable laws, policies, procedures, rules, and regulations; (ii) is safe and responsible; (iii) maintains and protects the integrity, cleanliness, and functionality of the University Property; (iv) does not materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with University Operations; and (v) does not impinge upon the individual rights of another person or group.

Access to and use of University Property is governed by the University, not by colleges, departments, or administrative units. Individual colleges, departments, and administrative units may adopt guidelines governing the use of University Property allocated for their specific use provided that such guidelines are consistent with these regulations. Space is allocated pursuant to the University's policy on [Allocation and Utilization of Space](#).

2. Limitations and Prohibited Activities

The University may establish reasonable standards and limitations regarding the time, place, and manner of use for any University Property, including access to certain areas within a building, entire buildings themselves, or specified areas of University Property, by both the general public and the University community.

The University also has the right to restrict access to any and all University Property, including the campus(es) as a whole, as necessary to address safety and/or security concerns.

Specific requirements relative to the limitations and prohibited activities (e.g., building hours, decibel levels, posting, etc.) may be developed by the Department of Public Safety and posted on the Public Safety website.

- a. Individual Rights: Under no circumstances may University Property be used in a manner that impinges upon the rights of another person under the United States or Rhode Island Constitution; any federal, state, or local law; or any University policy.
- b. Violation of Law: Any use of University Property that violates federal, state, or local laws, regulations, or ordinances will constitute a violation of these regulations.
- c. Disruption of University Operations: The use of University Property must not materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with the conduct of University Operations or scheduled meetings, programs, or events.
- d. Campus and Building Access and Egress: Any use of University Property must not impede access to, use of, or egress from University Property (or otherwise impede access to or egress from sanctioned University functions and activities) or impede vehicular or pedestrian right-of-way. Driving on walkways or accessing gated roadways unless authorized or otherwise posted is strictly prohibited.
- e. Endangerment: The use of University Property may not be used in a manner that endangers others or is violent or incites violence.
- f. Leafletting and Distribution of Literature: Leafletting or the distribution of literature is allowed provided that the activity does not impede the flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, block access or egress, or create litter; and the item is not placed on motor vehicles or forced upon others. Housing and Residential Life and Dining Services may develop additional restrictions on leafletting specific to areas under their control.
- g. Signs, Postings, Banners: Posting of information is limited to designated bulletin boards or other areas identified for posting. Affixing signs unrelated to University Operations into or on University Property, other than designated areas, is prohibited. Affixing signs or banners to the exterior of buildings without prior permission from the Offices of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Vice

President for Student Affairs, or Vice President for Administration and Finance is prohibited. Except for within designated spaces dedicated to postings and announcements, printed matter such as posters, fliers, and stickers may not be affixed to University Property.

No signs supported by standards or sticks shall be permitted in any assembly inside any building on campus. Signs supported by standards or sticks shall be permitted outside.

- h. Graffiti: Graffiti is defined as unauthorized and unlawful writings or drawings made on a wall or other surface. Graffiti is not protected speech, and may be considered the illegal defacement of property, punishable as a crime under Rhode Island General Law (RIGL § 11-44-21.1). Temporary markings, such as chalking, are permissible provided the speech is lawful and the markings are easily removable.
- i. Erection of Structures: No structure, permanent or temporary, may be erected on University Property without the specific written approval of the Vice President for Administration and Finance. Camping, defined as the erection of a temporary shelter or otherwise maintaining a space designed for living (eating, sleeping, etc.) outside, is prohibited without written permission from the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance or the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
- j. Amplified Sound: Sound level must be maintained at a volume that does not interfere with University Operations; sound emission beyond the perimeters of the reserved area shall be at a reasonable level. Specific requirements will be developed by the Department of Public Safety and posted to the Department of Public Safety website.
- k. Building Access: Access to non-residential buildings shall not be permitted outside of posted hours unless specifically authorized by the responsible department. Access to residential buildings is by invitation only and the University reserves the right to ask guests to leave at any time.
- l. Building Exteriors: Climbing, scaling, or rappelling on University Property is prohibited unless expressly permitted in writing by the Vice President for Administration and Finance or their delegate.
- m. Bicycles, Skateboards and Similar Conveyances. The use of bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and similar means of motorized and non-motorized conveyance on University property (except for mobility aids) may be controlled by specific requirements established by the Department of Public Safety.
- n. Open Flames and Fire Safety: Any activity that includes the possession or use of fireworks or the use of fire pits, campfires, or torches without prior written permission by the University (and/or local or state fire authorities) are prohibited. Protected candles (candles with wind screens) may be used with prior approval from the Department of Public Safety. The unauthorized or improper activation, possession, use, removal, or disabling of fire safety equipment and/or warning devices; failure to follow standard fire safety procedures; and/or interference with firefighting equipment or personnel are prohibited.
- o. Sanitation: Urination or defecation in any place other than a designated restroom is prohibited.

3. Enforcement and Violations

Violations of this policy may lead to disciplinary actions up to and including termination from employment, suspension or expulsion from the University, revocation of affiliate status, or a permanent restriction or trespass from University Property. Such discipline for students will be imposed under the Student Handbook and for employees under applicable Human Resource Administration policies, collective bargaining agreements, or other controlling agreements. In addition, the Board of Trustees may impose fines, with a schedule determined by the Department of Public Safety, up to statutory limits plus associated costs pursuant to RIGL § 16-32-2.

Violations of these regulations may lead to removal from University Property, possible loss of further access to and use of University Property, and/or prosecution for trespass, disorderly conduct, or other offenses under state law.

The Department of Public Safety, along with any offices sponsoring or directly associated with an event, is responsible for enforcing any infractions of these regulations. The Department of Public Safety may require adjustments, up to and including cessation, to the activities associated with any particular use of University Property should those activities violate the terms of these regulations (or any federal, state, or local laws or regulations).

Users of University Property are responsible for any damage, loss, or destruction of University Property (including moveable property or the contents of a building) and may be assessed a fee for any cost incurred by the University as a result of any user's violation of these regulations.

4. Exceptions

Except as otherwise set out in these regulations, exceptions to the limitations and prohibited activities delineated within these regulations may only be granted through a written agreement with the University as may be entered into regarding a specific scheduled event pursuant to established processes of the University.