

**Texas Woman's University  
Division of Student Life**

**Dealing With Disruptive Student Behavior  
November, 2007**

Polices and Procedures

Texas Woman's University provides a procedure for the referral, evaluation, and appropriate disposition of students displaying disruptive behavior. Personnel of all departments of the University should refer students displaying disruptive behavior(s) that is not imminently dangerous to the office of the Associate Vice President for Student Life for review and appropriate referral and disposition (see Flowchart for Non-Imminent Danger Reports). Behavior that poses an imminent risk of danger to anyone must be reported immediately to the Department of Public Safety.

Annual Review of Policy and Procedures

This policy and procedures will be reviewed annually by the Behavioral Assessment Team composed of the Directors of the University Counseling Center, the Department of University Housing, Student Health Services, Disability Support Services, the Department of Public Safety, and a designee from Academic Affairs and the Associate Vice President for Student Life.

Definitions

- Disruptive behaviors are overt actions, omissions to act, or verbal or written statements that would not be consistent with the actions or statements of a reasonable, prudent person under similar circumstances.
- Disruptive behaviors include, but are not limited to, behaviors resulting from possible physical, drug-related, or psychiatric disorders which may pose a potential harm to the physical or emotional well being of the student or others, and/or cause significant disruption to the normal functions and activities of the University.
- Disruptive behavior typically refers to directly observable behavior. But, it may also include a student's behavior by electronic means (e.g. e-mail, social networking sights, postings to electronic classrooms, etc.) as well.

Procedures for Imminent Danger Situations

Anyone thought to be in imminent danger of harm to self or others, regardless of the reason, should be reported immediately to the TWU Department of Public Safety, if the person is physically on the TWU Campus. If someone is not physically on TWU property, the local law enforcement agency should be called.

### Procedures for Non-Imminent Danger Situations

- The Associate Vice President for Student Life shall be notified by faculty, staff, or students of any instance where a student demonstrates disruptive behavior. The Associate Vice President Student Life, following the Flowchart, will make a decision concerning the appropriate initial disposition of the event. If the decision is made to bring this information to the Behavioral Assessment Team (BAT), the Associate Vice President for Student Life will present the case to the Behavioral Assessment Team to review and evaluate the student's behavior. The Associate Vice President for Student Life also retains the right to determine that behavior, while not imminently dangerous, is egregious enough to warrant an emergency suspension and may take the necessary steps to implement that suspension. Due process following the emergency suspension will be followed, as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- If the BAT reviews the case and, as a result, decides it is deemed in the best interest of the student and/or the University that the student be withdrawn from the University, every effort will be made to facilitate the student's voluntary withdrawal in accordance with established University procedures. However, if the student is unwilling to voluntarily withdraw and it is determined that the student's behavior is disruptive to normal University functions, and/or presents a threat of harm or bodily injury to herself/himself or others, the BAT may recommend to the Associate Vice President for Student Life that the student be temporarily suspended from the University in accordance with item number 3 under *Sanctions Against Misconduct* in the student handbook. As part of the recommendation to withdraw the student from the university, the BAT will provide recommendations for any conditions the student may need to meet to return to school. The Associate Vice President for Student Life can modify those recommendations in any necessary manner.
- If the Associate Vice President for Student Life concurs with this recommendation, the student will be temporarily suspended, until a hearing can be held to determine whether the suspension should be sustained and to deliver to the student any required conditions for reinstatement. This hearing will be conducted as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- When a student is suspended, a registration hold will be placed on the student's readmission to the University. This registration hold will remain in the student's records until the Associate Vice President for Student Life approves the student's request for readmission.
- If it is determined at this hearing that the student should not be reinstated, the Associate Vice President for Student Life will send a letter to the student and/or guardian reiterating the reasons for the involuntary withdrawal as well as the conditions for reinstatement.
- The student may request, through the Associate Vice President for Student Life, to return to the University after the conditions as outlined in the hearing and follow-up

letter have been met and has complied with the procedures specified under *Enforcement of Regulations* in the student handbook.

### Readmission Procedures and Appeals

- A student who has had a registration hold placed on her/his readmission must request readmission clearance from the Vice President for Student Life's office at least four weeks prior to the first day of classes of the semester or summer session in which the student wishes to re-enroll. The student may be required by the Associate Vice President for Student Life to submit appropriate evidence supportive of her/his present ability to function properly in a university environment. The Associate Vice President for Student Life, in consultation with the BAT, shall evaluate the student's request and supporting evidence. Primary consideration will be given to satisfying all conditions specified at the time of suspension or withdrawal for the readmission of the student to the University. If approval is granted by the Associate Vice President for Student Life for the removal of the registration hold, the student must then complete the regular readmission procedure as required by the Office of Enrollment Management.
- If approval for readmission is not granted, the student may appeal that decision to the Vice President for Student Life. The appeal must be made in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of the date the student was notified by the Associate Vice President for Student Life that her/his request for readmission was denied.

### Responding to Non-Emergency and Non-Disruptive Behavior

In some cases, a student may come to the attention of faculty, staff, or other students who may seem to be in need of non-emergency medical or psychological assistance. In these cases, the behavior is neither indicative of imminent danger nor is it disruptive to university functions.

Faculty, staff, and students may remind these students of the Student Health Service and Counseling Center services that are available. During office hours, students may be brought directly to these offices for services. However, it is critical to remember that these services are not meant to substitute for or avoid the appropriate reporting of disruptive behavior as outlined above.

Faculty, staff, and students may consult with staff of the Student Health Service and/or the Counseling Center regarding concerns they may have about situations involving a student. If, in the judgment of the Student Health Service or Counseling Center staff member, the situation appears to rise to the level of disruptive behavior, the caller will be advised to file a report with the Associate Vice President for Student Life in addition to any other actions they wish to take.

## Dealing with Disruptive Student Behavior Flow Chart for Non-Imminent Danger Reports November, 2007

