

## **Article X. Authority and Procedures Related to Exigent Circumstances and Public Safety on Campus**

The University may utilize either one of the following procedures to insure the safety of members of the campus community and University property. The discretion as to which procedure to utilize rests solely with the University.

- 1. Interim Suspensions:** In certain circumstances, the Chief Student Conduct Officer, or designee, may impose a University and/or residence hall suspension prior to the hearing.
  - a.** Interim suspension may be imposed only:
    - i.** To ensure the safety or well-being of members of the University community or preservation of University property, and/or
    - ii.** If the student poses an ongoing threat of disruption of, or interference with, the normal operations of the University.
  - b.** During the interim suspension, a student shall be denied access to the residence halls and/or the campus and/or all other University activities or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible, as the Student Conduct Officer may determine to be appropriate.
  - c.** The University may impose an interim suspension without notice or hearing, as long as the notice and hearing follow as soon as practicable (but not less than three business days unless extenuating circumstances exist). The interim suspension does not replace the Student Conduct Process, which shall proceed on the normal schedule, up to and through a hearing, if required. After imposing an interim suspension, the student should be notified in writing (hard copy or electronic) of this action and the reasons for the suspension. The notice should include the time, date, and place of a subsequent hearing at which the student may show cause why the suspension should be lifted (and at which they may contest whether a campus rule was violated.) An interim suspension shall not last longer than 10 class days.
  
- 2. Maintaining Campus Order During Periods of Disruption:** The Texas Education Code (TEC §§ 51.231-.244) permits the president of a state University to suspend a student for up to 14 days during periods of disruption whenever the president believes there is reasonable cause to demonstrate the student has willfully disrupted the orderly operation of the campus and the student's presence on the campus will constitute a substantial and material threat to the orderly operation of the campus. The statute defines a period of disruption as "any period in which it reasonably appears that there is a threat of destruction to institutional property, injury to human life on the campus or facility, or a threat of willful disruption of the orderly operation of the campus of facility". If invoked the statutory process will govern.