



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Board of Regents™

January 23, 2024

Dear Esteemed Student Organization Leaders,

As your dedicated student representative at the Texas Tech University System, I am committed to working closely with student leaders maintaining an open line of communication to address your concerns. In that regard, I have been in communication with TTU Student Government Association (“SGA”) President Joel Rivero regarding questions surrounding Senate Bill 17 (“SB 17”) and its application to student organizations.

First and foremost, as your student regent, I want to emphasize the importance of encouraging student engagement in higher education. I extend my gratitude to those who have voiced their concerns. Further, I appreciate the respectful, collegial manner in which such concerns have been expressed. For broader concerns related to the nature of SB 17, I urge you to connect with your local elected officials, as public institutions are required to adhere to the law set forth by the Texas Legislature.

Addressing the concerns of students regarding the impact of SB 17 on registered student organizations at TTU, it is crucial to clarify that the restrictions of SB 17 do not apply to registered student organizations.

Section 51.3525 of the Texas Education Code explicitly states that the restrictions outlined in SB 17 do not apply to “an activity of a student organization registered with or recognized by an institution of higher education.” There are no changes to the process for obtaining funding for registered student organizations as outlined by the SGA. Furthermore, SB 17 does not restrict the activities of student organizations (e.g, events, guest speakers).

I understand this is a complex matter and we are doing our best to communicate the specifics of the issue. Our voices as students matter, and it is important that your interests are being heard and understood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steeley freeman".



Steeley Smith Freeman

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Cc: Joel Rivero