



**Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
Regulations and Procedures Manual**

<i>Section</i>	6.4.6
<i>Subject</i>	Disruptions
<i>Effective Date</i>	4/74
<i>Revised Date</i>	
<i>Source</i>	Board of Governors

**6.4.6 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE FOR RESPONDING TO  
DISRUPTIONS:**

An academic community, where people assemble to inquire, to learn, to teach, and to reason together, must be protected for those purposes. While all members of the community are encouraged to register their dissent from any decision on any issue and to demonstrate that dissent by orderly means, and while the University commits itself to a continual examination of its policies and practices to insure that causes of disruption are eliminated, the University cannot tolerate demonstrations which unduly interfere with the freedom of other members of the academic community. With this in mind, the following administrative procedures have been formulated to guide the implementation of University policy:

- A. Broadly defined, a disruption is any action which significantly or substantially interferes with the rights of members of the academic community to go about their normal business or which otherwise unreasonably interrupts the activities of the University.
- B. The President of the University and the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer will have the authority throughout the University to declare a particular activity to be disruptive. In each of the three geographical areas of Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick, the respective provost will have the same authority.
- C. The following statement will be read by the appropriate officers as specified in B (above) or by such officers as they may designate for the purpose of such reading and will constitute the official warning that the activity is in violation of University policy, that it must cease within a specified time limit, and where appropriate, that no commitments made by University officials will be honored if those commitments are made under duress:

Any demonstration that interferes with the freedom of members of the academic community to go about their normal business constitutes a disruption and violates University Regulations. It is necessary for me as a duly authorized officer of Rutgers University charged with responsibility in this matter to inform you that your present action constitutes a disruption and is in violation of both State law and the University Student Disciplinary Hearing Code. I advise you that you must desist from this present disruption within (time limit) or be subject to prosecution under the laws of the State and/or under the Student Disciplinary Hearing Code, including possible suspension from the University. I further advise you that any agreement reached by an administrator while under physical duress or restraint will not be honored by the University.

- D. If the activity continues beyond the specified timer limit as determined by the official in authority, the authorized officers as specified in B (above) will have the discretion to call upon the University Police to contain the disruption. Ordinarily, the President of the University alone, or in his absence the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, will have the authority to decide that civil authorities beyond the campus are to be called upon to contain those disruptions which the University Police is unable to handle. In extraordinary circumstances, where neither the President nor Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer is available to make such a decision, the provosts of the three geographic areas will have the same authority.
- E. The deans of students are the chief representatives of the deans of the colleges in all matter of student life. Members of the University community who are aware of potentially disruptive situations are to report this to the dean of students on their respective campuses. In a disruption, the deans of students and their staff members have a twofold responsibility: 1) to protect against personal injury; and 2) to aid in providing for the order of the University. They, as well as other University personnel, may be called upon to coordinate or assist members of the academic community in ending the disruption, directing it to legitimate channels for solution, or identifying those who have violated the rights of others.

## **University Regulations and Procedures Manual Caveat**

The University Regulations and Procedures Manual of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey compiles regulations approved by the Board of Governors as well as certain administrative procedures. All regulations and procedures are subject to amendment. To confirm the present status of a particular regulation approved by the Board of Governors, you should consult the Office of the Secretary. The status of procedures issued by an administrative office should be determined by consulting that office.

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