



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS

2304 Whitis Avenue, FAC 438 • Mail Code G4800 • Austin, Texas 78712-1714 • 512-471-1241 • FAX 512-471-1255
<https://legal.utexas.edu> • vpla@austin.utexas.edu

April 29, 2026

Via email dhiott@kut.org

Ms. Debbie Hiott
Executive Director
KUT Radio

Dear Ms. Hiott:

The University of Texas at Austin has a responsibility to provide a safe environment on our campus. This requires working collaboratively with our safety professionals, taking their guidance seriously, and engaging in appropriate planning for campus events. The University is disappointed that the inaugural KUT Festival had to relocate and resize some of its events due to poor planning. However, it was the right decision. Despite multiple meetings, conversations, and written instructions, you suggest in your public statements that you are confused about why this occurred and about the timing of the decision. To reiterate what you have already been told and to help with your understanding, I share the summary below outlining areas of concern:

- **Police staffing.** Initially, your team refused any police presence. Even after accepting police staffing was required, your plan was short ten officers based on the appropriate staffing needed for your event's anticipated attendance and components.
- **Youth protection measures.** There were no youth protection measures incorporated, including insufficient reunification processes for lost or missing children.
- **Emergency medical response.** There was not an adequate emergency medical response plan that included EMS services with basic or advanced life support, ambulance transport, and physician oversight. For events of this anticipated attendance and scale, this is always required by the University.
- **Crowd control staffing.** The UT Fire Marshal's recommendations were not addressed. In fact, the event planners had initially indicated that no formal plan was in place for portions of the event. This could lead to dangerous unmanaged situations (e.g., crowd crush), increased time to resolution/mitigation, and elevated risks to life and safety.
- **Inclement weather shelter plan.** There was no plan that identified appropriate facilities, including consideration of occupancy limits, ADA accessibility, protection of minors, and life safety requirements.

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- **UAV overwatch.** Event planners rejected UTPD's advice to include unmanned aerial vehicle overwatch. When an event space covers a large outdoor area where political officials are speaking, this is a critical component of the event's safety.

These issues remained unaddressed last week and required University intervention. Contrary to your public statements, it was false to assert that you and your staff agreed to every health, security, and safety request made of KUT. It was also false to assert that KUT did not have an opportunity to sit down with campus safety officials to go over their concerns and remedies—those meetings and opportunities were numerous over the last few months.

The safety and security of our campus community is, and always will be, a top priority. We trust KUT understands its obligation to share this priority moving forward.

Sincerely,



Amanda Cochran-McCall

Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel