

# R555, Providing Facilities, Goods and Services in Competition with Private Enterprise<sup>1</sup>

**R555-1 Purpose:** To establish policy and guidelines for institutions providing facilities, goods and services in competition with the private sector. The following policy shall apply to all non-academic, self-support services.<sup>2</sup>

## R555-2 References

- 2.1. [Utah Code § 53H-8-202](#), Combined Requests for Appropriations – Appropriation Formulas
- 2.2. [Board Policy R550](#), Auxiliary Enterprises Operation and Accountability

## R555-3 Definitions

- 3.1. **“Institutions”** colleges and universities which are part of the Utah System of Higher Education.
- 3.2. **“Campus Community”** an institution’s prospective students, students, faculty, staff, alumni and campus guests.
- 3.3. **“Institutional Services”** an institution’s facilities, goods, and services.
- 3.4. **“Non-academic Self-support Services”** services that are complementary to an institution’s teaching, research, and public service functions and are funded through the service’s own activities or by charging a fee directly related to the costs of providing the goods or services.

**R555-4 Policy:** Institutions shall not sell or provide services to their campus community or to the general public except as set forth below.

- 4.1. **Services Necessary for the Education of Students or Basic Research:** Institutions are expected to provide their campus communities appropriate services which are necessary for the education of students, or the performance of basic research in accordance with the institution’s mission as established by the Board of Higher Education. This responsibility

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<sup>1</sup> *Adopted November 14, 1986; amended January 24, 1997, and January 24, 2014.*

<sup>2</sup> *Technical edits October 3, 2024; and December 1, 2025.*

includes, but is not limited to: instructional, research, and public service programs; libraries; computing programs; and other academic support services.

**4.2. Educationally Related Activities:** Institutions may provide other services to their campus communities even though such services are practically available elsewhere providing that the services satisfy reasonable educationally related needs of the campus community, e.g. campus newspapers, campus store(s), campus dining facilities, student housing, etc.

**4.2.1.** Institutions may advertise institutional services to the campus community.

**4.2.2.** Institutions may advertise or share information with the general public via an institution's webpage, the internet, social media, and e-mail.

**4.2.3.** Except as is necessary to meet the purposes of services listed in section.

**4.2.4.** Institutional services may not otherwise be advertised to the general public.

**4.3. Services to Persons Other Than Members of the Campus Community:** An institution shall not provide services to persons other than members of the campus community unless:

**4.3.1.** The service offers a substantial and valuable educational or research experience for registered students and faculty;

**4.3.2.** The service fulfills the institution's public service mission;

**4.3.3.** The service is incidental to the ordinary and authorized function of a campus entity, i.e., occasional sales by bookstores, food service, etc., to campus visitors;

**4.3.4.** The service consists of recreational, cultural, and athletic events; health services and medical treatment; public service radio and TV broadcasting; events of functions which have as their principal purposes the improvement of relations between the institutions and the general public; and sales of contributed services, if related to fund raising activities;

**4.3.5.** The equivalent service is not available in the local area; or

**4.3.6.** The service to persons not members of the campus community has been specifically authorized by the Board of Higher Education.

**4.4. Private Enterprise on Campus:** Private enterprise entities which operate service or auxiliary units on a campus under contract with an institution are subject to this policy.

**4.5. Exceptions Authorized by Board of Higher Education:** An institution may submit a proposal to the Board of Higher Education requesting an exception to policy R555. Exceptions to this policy may be authorized if the Board determines, upon consideration and weighing of the various interests and public policies pertinent to providing the facilities, goods or services in competition with private enterprise, that the public interest favoring an exception outweighs the interest favoring denial of an exception.

**4.6. Monitoring Institutional Services Which May Compete with Private**

**Enterprise:** Where an institution claims to provide services to persons other than members of the campus community in accordance with Sections 4.3. of this policy, the Board of Higher Education requires that the institution comply with the following requirements:

**4.6.1.** Each institution must establish a written policy regarding competition with private enterprise. This policy shall include the following provisions: (1) a requirement that the institution's provision of facilities, goods and services to persons other than members of the campus community complies with Policy R555; and (2) a description of the institution's grievance process, which must meet the requirements described in Section 4.7. The policy must designate an individual within the institution to whom complaints should be addressed. The policy must be accessible via the institution's website.

**4.7. Grievance Review Procedures:** In the event that the provision of a good or service by a higher education institution is perceived to be in competition with a privately-owned business, that business shall be provided the opportunity for a hearing of such a complaint according to the following guidelines:

**4.7.1.** Each institution must establish a grievance hearing process as well as a first point of contact for that hearing process.

**4.7.2.** If resolution is not reached as a result of the institutional grievance hearing process, appeal may be made to the Board of Trustees of the institution.