Corridor and Egress Safety Policy

**Purpose:**
Providing a clear corridor and exit allows Faculty, Staff, Students, Visitors and Contractors safe egress from University buildings in the event of a fire or other emergency. In addition, properly maintained corridors minimize the hazards to Firefighters, Medical Technicians, and Police Officers when conducting search and rescue and extinguishing fires in University buildings.

**Governing Regulations:**
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

In accordance with the above regulations it is required that for occupied buildings and structures the means of egress, exits, or exit discharges shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions and impediments in all parts of the building/structure. Therefore, no furnishings, decorations, or other combustible materials shall be placed to obstruct access to, egress from, or visibility of exits. This includes intervening room spaces, doorways, hallways, corridors, passageways, balconies, ramps, stairwells, enclosures and lobbies.

**Definitions:**
- **Corridor:** An enclosed exit access component that defines and provides a path of egress travel to an exit (see diagram).
- **Linear Equipment Room:** A corridor with at least a 44” width that has lateral egress with fire doors on each end (see diagram).
- **Means of Egress:** A continuous and unobstructed way of travel from any point in a building or structure to a public way consisting of three separate and distinct parts: (a) the exit access (corridors), (b) the exit, and (c) the exit discharge (public street or area).
- **Storage:** Any item that is not being used for its intended purpose in the current location, but merely placed for subsequent relocation and use.

**Environmental Health and Safety Department (EH&S):**
Environmental Health and Safety staff will conduct periodic surveys of all building corridors. EH&S will notify Department Business Managers when corridor compliance is unacceptable for means of egress.

**Requirements:**
Storage of any type will not be allowed in any part of the means of egress. However, when existing corridors are wider than stipulated minimums, permission to store non-combustible material may be granted by EH&S (362-6816) for placement of storage cabinets, lockers, or other furnishings.

**Note:** If EH&S grants permission to store non-combustible items, storage will be limited to one side of a corridor throughout its length, and shall not in any way obstruct access to utility controls, fire-fighting equipment, fire alarms, or impede the flow of traffic.

1. No portable signs, chairs, tables, mail, exam or student assignment boxes or other equipment shall be placed in the means of egress. The clear 44” width must be maintained. EH&S will determine on a case-by-case basis if these items are obstructing the means of egress.

2. Surplus or broken items must remain in their original area or space until moved to an appropriate storage facility or discarded.

3. Flammable liquids or other hazardous material storage will not be permitted in any means of egress including corridors and stairwells.

4. Compressed gas cylinders are not allowed to be stored in University Corridors (empty or full).

5. Storage of furniture, equipment, or supplies etc. of any type is not allowed in or below stairwells.

6. Storage shall not obstruct safety showers, eyewashes, fire extinguishers, exit doors, fire alarm pull stations, electrical panels, or any other building safety feature.

7. Temporary storage of equipment or supplies that are delivered is permitted only if items are kept to one side of the corridor and free clearance is maintained. However, the supplies or equipment shall be moved as soon as possible as overnight storage of equipment or supplies are not allowed.

8. The storage of athletic equipment such as bicycles, roller blades, roller skates, and skateboards are prohibited in building corridors, hallways, and other public spaces inside buildings. Violations will result in disciplinary action.
9. All doors that exit into the means of egress or corridor shall not be propped open at any time with wooden wedges, doorstops, chairs, books, bricks or similar items. However, the door may be kept open if a magnetic closure exists on the door. When the fire alarm is activated, the magnetic closure will deactivate and will allow the door to close.

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