Tents

Need a large open seating area under one roof? Have a gala dinner to host? Put up a tent! The idea sounds simple enough; but it isn’t. Using a tent for your next event may be a quick solution to your campus’ space problem or a unique way to provide an air of novelty - but, like with everything else, there is a right way and a wrong way to do it.

The Fire Code of the State of New York devotes an entire chapter (F24) to outlining the criteria for tents and membrane structures - even for short term use. And colleges who wish to use them are advised to review Chapter 24.

Chapter 24 topics included:
- SF2403 Access, Location and Parking
- SF2404 Structural Stability
- SF2406 Fire Safety Requirements
- SF2407 Fire Extinguishers
- SF2408 Occupant Load
- SF2409 Seating
- SF2410 Means of Egress
- SF2411 Heating & Cooking Equip.
- SF2412 LP-Gas
- SF2413 Flamm. & Combust. Liquids
- SF2415 Generators
- SF2416 Standby Personnel
- SF2417 Housekeeping

Tents can be a convenient means to host a large event while adding charm to the festivities, but they come with unique fire and life safety challenges - challenges that can easily be overcome with pre-planning.

§F2401.1 Scope. Temporary tents, canopies, air-supported, air-inflated or tensioned membrane structures shall comply with this chapter.

Tents - they aren’t just for camping anymore.