Procedure Statement

Texas A&M University-Commerce recognizes the importance of student involvement in activities as an integral part of the educational process which enriches and develops students’ special interests and needs. The purposes of all recognized student organizations must be consistent with the main objectives of the University and must abide by regulations appropriate for student organizations.

Reason for Procedure

This procedure describes the rights and responsibilities of student organizations, recognition, limitations, and functions reserved for active members.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1 GENERAL

The Assistant Director of SGA and Student Organizations of the Rayburn Student Center is responsible for the implementation and administration of the procedure for student organizations.

2 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Recognized student organizations exist on the premise that their activities contribute to the overall development of the student. Specific rights and responsibilities include:

2.1 The right to use the services of the Rayburn Student Center, including assistance in planning, implementing, and evaluating activities, programs, and leadership development.
2.2 The right to use university facilities and equipment subject to proper scheduling procedure and prior needs of the University.

2.3 The right to use campus advertising and media.

2.4 The right to distribute literature relating to the organization’s purpose and activities, in accordance with the university’s posting regulations.

2.5 The right to hold fundraising activities and to solicit funds for organizational activities, in accordance with university rules and procedures.

3 ANNUAL RENEWAL

3.1 It is the responsibility of the student organization to complete the registration process each year and after each executive election. The period of recognition is for one year from the first Monday of October until the following first Monday of October. These forms may be obtained through the Student Involvement Suite.

3.2 Should an organization fail to renew by the deadline, they must be considered inactive and would lose registered student organization privileges. In order to be considered active the student organization would need to reapply and meet all requirements through the Student Involvement Suite.

4 LIMITATIONS

4.1 Only a recognized student organization that is sponsored and financially supported by the University may use the name of the University or abbreviation of its name.

4.2 A recognized student organization which is not sponsored and financially supported by the University may not advertise or promote events or activities or other functions in a manner that suggests that they are sponsored by the University.

4.3 Each recognized student organization must anticipate, provide for, and promptly meet its financial obligations in a business-like manner that is fair and equitable to its current and future members.

4.4 The organization must not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity, except when allowed by statute.

4.5 The organization’s name must not be the same or deceptively similar to the name of any existing recognized student organization.

4.6 The organization must be non-profit in nature. It may not use its position to solicit or advertise for commercial purposes.
4.7 The organization may not, with or without the consent of the student, include hazing as one of its activities (Texas Educational Code Subchapter F, Chapter 37 Hazing, Sections 151-157, and Chapter 51 Section 936 Hazing). (See Definitions)

4.8 All officers of student organizations must be students in good standing with the university as defined by the University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.16 Good Academic Standing.

5 FUNCTIONS RESERVED TO ACTIVE MEMBERS

5.1 Holding an office in the organization.

5.2 Presiding, officiating, voting, making, or seconding motions at any meetings of the organization.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Texas Educational Code Subchapter F, Chapter 37 Hazing, Sections 151-157, and Chapter 51 Section 936 Hazing

University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.33 Regulations and Philosophy Governing Student Activities

University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.34 Probationary Status of Recognized Student Organizations

Student Guidebook

Definitions

"Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization.

The term includes:

Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;

Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;

Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subdivision; and any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code.

Contact Office

Rayburn Student Center
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