

13.99.99.R0.35 Student Organizations



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Procedure Summary

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 student organizations must be consistent with the main objectives of the University and must abide by regulations appropriate for student organizations.

This procedure describes the rights and responsibilities of student organizations, registration, 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 CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

2.1 Texas A&M University-Commerce classifies each student organization as either a registered student organization or a sponsored organization, based on the nature of the organization including, but not limited to, funding, staff support, and connection to the University.

2.2 Definitions

2.2.1 Registered Student Organization - An Association or group comprised of at least 6 students and full-time faculty or staff advisor that upon completion of the registration process are entitled to certain privileges, including access to resources provided by Texas A&M University-Commerce. These organizations are those that mainly present events and opportunities limited to their membership and the campus community. These organizations are driven primarily by common interest.

Any Texas A&M University-Commerce student can form a student organization with 6 members and a full-time university faculty or staff member to serve as the advisor. Registered Student Organizations must complete the annual registration process and comply with all university policies and procedures.

2.2.2 Sponsored Organization - An Association or group considered to be critical to the mission and culture of the University. These organizations are inherently linked to the University because of their role in representing the University or in presenting events that are considered to be an integral part of the University. These organizations routinely present events for the campus, broader community, and typically have a close relationship with a University department or office. The activities and events of these organizations are considered to involve a higher level of complexity because of their scope and perceived association to the institution. These organizations are affiliated with a Texas A&M University-Commerce academic or administrative department designated by support through funding or a designated faculty or staff administrator with advising in their position description. These organizations are afforded access to the resources provided by Texas A&M University-Commerce; however, if a sponsored organization receives Student Service Fee funding, then a sponsored organization will be ineligible for SOAC funding. These organizations must complete the annual registration process and comply with all university policies and procedures.

3 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS AND REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

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

- 3.1 The right to use the services of the Rayburn Student Center, including assistance in planning, implementing, and evaluating activities, programs, and leadership development.
- 3.2 The right to use university facilities and equipment subject to proper scheduling procedure and prior needs of the University.
- 3.3 The right to use campus advertising and media.
- 3.4 The right to distribute literature relating to the organization's purpose and activities, in accordance with the university's posting regulations.
- 3.5 The right to hold fundraising activities and to solicit funds for organizational activities, in accordance with university rules and procedures.

4 ANNUAL RENEWAL

- 4.1 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.

- 4.2 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.

5 LIMITATIONS

- 5.1 Only a student organization that is sponsored and financially supported by the University may use the name of the University or abbreviation of its name.
- 5.2 A 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.
- 5.3 Each 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.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 The organization's name must not be the same or deceptively similar to the name of any existing student organization.
- 5.6 The organization must be non-profit in nature. It may not use its position to solicit or advertise for commercial purposes.
- 5.7 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)
- 5.8 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*.

6 FUNCTIONS RESERVED TO ACTIVE MEMBERS

- 6.1 Holding an office in the organization.
- 6.2 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 for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization if the act:

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

Involves 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;

Involves consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance, other than described by the next paragraph, that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;

Is any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code; or involves coercing, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code, the student to consume a drug; or an alcoholic beverage or liquor in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student is intoxicated, as defined by Section 49.01, Penal Code..

Contact Office

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