

Student Activities Statement Draft

Editor's Note: What follows is a draft of a policy statement on student activities drawn up by the University's Student Activities Committee. It affects all recognized University groups. Most of it will be run in today's Emerald, but space limitations force us to run part of it in Thursday's paper. This is a rough draft proposal, parts of which must be approved by the faculty, parts by President Flemming. Student Union Director A. L. "Si" Ellingson has asked that students with comments or suggestions on the statement contact his office so that they can be directed to the proper committee or board handling the section of the statement that interests them.

I. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to set forth the relationship between the Student Activities Committee and student groups and organizations of the University, and to outline the Committee's and the University's policies and procedures governing on-campus activities by University student groups and organizations. This document is furnished to University student groups and organizations by the Student Activities Committee to provide guidance with reference to student activities on campus.

II. Student Activities Committee

A. Nature

The Student Activities Committee is a Faculty Committee established by the Faculty of the University on February 3, 1902.

B. Composition

The Student Activities Committee is composed of four faculty members recommended by the Faculty Committee on Committees and appointed by the President of the University, and four student members recommended by the President of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon and appointed by the President of the University. The Dean of Students, as personal representative of the President, is an ex-officio member. The Director of the Student Union serves as nonvoting secretary of the Committee. The period of service for both faculty and student members is one year, although both faculty and student members may be reappointed for successive service periods.

C. General Powers and Responsibilities

Except as otherwise provided it is the special responsibility of the Student Activities Committee to regulate all campus extracurricular activities incident to student life. It is the particular responsibility of the Committee to grant recognition to the numerous student organizations and groups which play an active part in the life of the University and to develop policies which shall guide such organizations in their activities; the Committee shall prepare the social calendar for the University. The Committee has the authority to withdraw recognition from those groups or organizations which it recognizes. The Student Activities Committee has jurisdiction over all student activities not specifically assigned to some other faculty committee or University department or committee and is charged particularly with assuring that student activities do not interfere unduly with the scholastic work of the students of the University. The Student Activities Committee has responsibility for the use of the University name, its buildings, property and facilities, by student groups and organizations of the University. The chairman and secretary may act for the Student Activities Committee on matters of urgency when the regular or a special meeting of the Committee would cause undue delay.

III. Statements of Policies

A. The existence in the University community of many diversified student groups and organizations concerned with a broad spectrum of the interests, values, and activities of society helps round out the purposes of the University by complementing the University's academic program. It is the policy of the University and the Student Activities Committee to recognize such student groups and organizations whether for continuing activities or for a limited period of time, and to facilitate their activities in a variety of ways.

B. To carry out its assigned responsibilities, the Student Activities Committee

requires that all student groups and organizations be recognized by the Committee in order for the student group or organization to operate on the campus of the University of Oregon and use or schedule to be used, any or part of the University's facilities, property, or buildings.

C. As a matter of policy the University refrains from attempting to control or sway the personal opinions or beliefs of students or their organizations, or the public expression of those opinions or beliefs. Recognition of student groups or organizations does not mean that the University supports or adheres to the views held or positions taken by such groups. Moreover, recognition of student groups or organizations in no way implies University consent to or agreement with actions by students or their groups or organizations which violate federal, state, or local laws or ordinances, or rules and regulations of the State System of Higher Education and of the University of Oregon. Students or student groups and organizations must assume responsibility for any of their actions which violate such laws, rules, or regulations.

D. Student groups or organizations not recognized by the Student Activities Committee may not use or schedule to be used any part of the University's facilities, property, or buildings. There are only two exceptions to this policy:

1. The Free Speech Platform, located on the Erb Memorial Student Union Terrace, may be used at any time by any University student or group of students (whether recognized by the Student Activities Committee or not) for the purpose of free speech, in accordance with the following provisions:

a. The Platform cannot be reserved or scheduled.

b. Only public address systems approved by the Student Union Board may be used.

c. However, the right of free speech may not spare the speaker from legal action if the substance of the remarks are found to violate the legal rights of others. Use of the Free Speech Platform does not accord speakers immunity from legal action.

d. The essence of the right of free speech is the freedom of the speaker to make his statement. Both the speaker and the audience are entitled to proceed without being subjected to physical violence. Persons deliberately engaging in acts of violence may be subject to removal from the premises and prosecution under the law.

e. The Erb Memorial Student Union Board is responsible for administering and interpreting policies for the Free Speech Platform.

2. A student group or organization may, subsequent to initiating action to seek Student Activities Committee recognition, schedule meetings in the Student Union building or elsewhere for the purpose of organization. (See V.A.2. below)

IV. Procedures Governing the Recognition of Student Groups by the Student Activities Committee

A. Any student group or organization will be accorded recognition by the Student Activities Committee providing:

1. The student group or organization confines active membership to regularly enrolled students and to faculty and staff members of the University and their families;

2. The student group or organization does not have as its stated purpose the advocacy of interference with the University's ability to perform its functions;

3. The student group or organization does not have as its stated purpose the advocacy of activities which would menace the health and safety of persons in the University community;

4. The student group or organization does not have in its stated purpose the intention to assume the functions and responsibilities assigned by law, by the administrative code of the State Board of Higher Education, or by faculty legislation to officials of the University, the faculty, or to other bodies; and

5. The student group or organization complies with the provision of Subsection B, below.

B. Procedure for Seeking Recognition

1. Individuals wishing to initiate a student group or organization must submit a request for recognition to the Student Activities Committee for consideration and approval. The application shall include the following information about the proposed student group or organization:

- a. Statement of aims and functions.
- b. Proposed constitution.
- c. Proposed by-laws.
- d. List of interested persons and provisional officers.

e. Name of the faculty or staff advisor. (This can be waived by the Committee.)

2. Where the local student group or organization wishes to affiliate with a national organization, whether student or otherwise, a request must be submitted to the Student Activities Committee together with the following information:

a. Name, statement of aims and functions, and constitution and by-laws of the national organization.

b. The local membership roll.

c. The general method of financing organizational activities together with information on whether dues, if any, are paid by local chapters, individual members, or both.

d. Names of the current national officers.

e. Any other pertinent information required by the Student Activities Committee.

3. Policy on Discrimination

a. It is the policy of the University to oppose and prevent, in connection with its activities, discrimination based on race, color, or religion. Such discrimination is inconsistent with the free pursuit of truth and inquiry which is the central purpose of the University.

b. In line with the policy in subsection a, above, the Student Activities Committee will withhold its recognition of any fraternity, sorority, honorary, club, or other organization whose national charter, constitution or bylaws, or whose local constitution or bylaws require restriction of local membership on the basis of race, color, or religion. (Section K-10, of the Administrative Code of the State Board of Higher Education.)

c. The University recognizes that with the large number of student groups and organizations on the campus, including some made up of foreign students as well as some organized to promote a variety of causes, some of these organizations will, by virtue of their inherent nature and purpose, be limited to persons of one or more racial, religious, national or geographical grouping. In these cases, the Student Activities Committee in considering applications for recognition will determine whether bona fide reasons have been demonstrated by each applicant for a variance from the basic policy on discrimination of the State System of Higher Education.

C. Procedures Subsequent to Recognition

1. The Student Activities Committee may, at any time, require that a recognized student group or organization submit to the Committee current information on any or all of the following:

a. Statement of aims and functions.

b. Constitution and by-laws.

c. Membership roll, officers, sponsors, and advisors.

d. Time and place of meetings.

e. Information about financial support and condition of finances.

2. The Student Activities Committee requires that all student groups and organizations recognized by the Committee, submit annually or as often as changes occur, the names of their officers and advisor for the following school year or period. Moreover, if the group or organization changes its aims and functions in a significant manner, the Student Activities Committee must be notified of the change within seven days. (See IV, Section D.)

3. Recognizing the need and desirability for proper and accurate accounting of all student funds, the Student Activities Committee urges that all student groups and organizations deposit their funds with the Student Union Administrative Office without service charge, to insure safekeeping and proper accounting of all income and expenses. The Student Activities Committee will expect the faculty or staff advisor to exercise reasonable supervision over the finances of the student group or organization. Thus if the student group or organization funds are held in trust by the Student Union, the faculty or staff advisor shall sign or countersign all authorizations for expenditures for the group or organization on forms provided for this purpose by the Student Union.

D. Withdrawal of Recognition and Sanctions

1. The Student Activities Committee may withdraw recognition in accordance

with section IV, D. 4, below, whenever a recognized student group or organization fails to comply with any or all of the requirements for remaining in good standing as specified herein, within the time period specified by the Committee.

2. Whenever a recognized student group or organization violates the rules and policies of the University or of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, that student group or organization may be liable to action by the Student Conduct Committee under the provisions of Section D. "Group Offenses" of the "The Code of Student Conduct," which reads as follows:

"1. Living organizations, societies, clubs and similar organized student groups are responsible for compliance with law and University regulations. Upon satisfactory proof that the group has encouraged or did not take reasonable steps, as a group, to prevent violation of law or University regulations, the group may be subjected to permanent or temporary suspension of charter, social probation, denial of use of University facilities, or other like sanctions."

"2. The determination that a group is liable to sanction under the foregoing section 1, and of the sanction to be imposed, shall be made by the Student Conduct Committee at a hearing held for that purpose. The President, or principal officer, of the group must be given reasonable notice of the time and place of said hearing and of the nature of the charges. He, and any other member of the group, are entitled to attend and be heard at the hearing."

3. The Student Activities Committee will keep under review organizational membership practices, to insure against abuses and prevent violations of the basic policy on discrimination of the State System of Higher Education. Affirmative finding of discrimination may constitute grounds for withdrawal of recognition.

4. The Student Activities Committee will, prior to taking action to withdraw recognition of a University student group or organization under the provisions of this document, conduct an appropriate investigation into the case. If the Committee determines, after a fair hearing, that the nature of the violation is sufficient to warrant withdrawal of recognition, it may take such action, providing the student group or organization has first been given an opportunity to rectify the violation and take corrective action, and also providing that the remedial efforts are considered by the Committee in arriving at its decision.

5. The Student Activities Committee shall assume that a student group or organization no longer exists and shall automatically withdraw its recognition, whenever the group or organization shall have become moribund and ceased to function as evidenced by:

a. Due notice of its dissolution; or

b. Failure to hold meetings of any sort within a period of 12 months. Student groups and organizations are reminded that trust fund accounts should be cleared out prior to dissolution.

V. Policies and Procedures Relating to Student Group and Organization Activities

A. Use of University Facilities, Property, and Buildings

1. Any student group or organization, recognized by the Student Activities Committee, may schedule, sponsor, or hold activities, events, and meetings for social, entertainment, religious, educational, or political purposes utilizing appropriate University facilities, property, and buildings, providing:

a. That due regard is given to avoiding unnecessary time conflicts with activities, events, or programs sponsored and held by other University groups and organizations, and by the University itself. The Student Activities Committee shall develop criteria to guide the University Calendar and Scheduling Officer in carrying out this provision.

b. That in all cases the activity, event, meeting, or program is properly scheduled, prior to its execution, with the University Calendar and Scheduling Officer, located in the Office of the Student Union Director.

c. That all health, safety, fire, and other regulations applicable to the University facility, property or building being used for the activity, event, program, or meeting are observed.

d. That if the activity or event is in

(Continued on page 5)