

## **SECTION N. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Student Organizations at Texas Tech University are an integral component of the student involvement experience. Students are encouraged to be involved on campus and joining a student organization is one option.

Texas Tech University defines a student organization as a group consisting of five (5) or more students (president, treasurer, and a minimum of three members) joining together for a common mission, purpose, cause, and/or any other association. Only currently enrolled TTU students are eligible to be a member of student organizations at TTU.

As a representative of the university, student organizations and members of those organizations should, at all times, exhibit behaviors that epitomize the Texas Tech University [Statement of Ethical Principles](#). Those values include mutual respect, cooperation in communication, creativity and innovation, community service and leadership, pursuit of excellence, public accountability, and diversity. Additionally, student organizations and members are responsible for adhering to university policies and procedures.

### **1. Registered Student Organizations**

- a. To be considered a registered student organization, student organizations must meet the guidelines and expectations for a registered student organization and complete the annual registration process through the Center for Campus Life. Registered student organizations are bound by the expectations set forth by the Center for Campus Life and receive all rights and responsibilities outlined by TTU.
- b. Generally, student organizations are broadly categorized all under as one of the following categories:

Academic-Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Academic-Architecture, Academic-Arts and Sciences, Academic-Business, Academic-Education, Academic-Engineering, Academic-Human Sciences, Academic-Media and Communications, Academic-Visual and Performing Arts, Advocacy/Activism, Campus Departmental Support, Cultural/International, Fraternity/Sorority, Graduate, Hobby/Leisure/Recreation, Honor, Law School, Political, Pre-Law, Pre-Professional, Residential, Service/Philanthropy, Spiritual/Faith Based, and Sport Club.

- c. **Sport Clubs**

1. Recreational Sports is responsible for the oversight of the Texas Tech Sport Club Program. This program exists to promote and develop interest in sports. Sport club members learn new skills, engage in competition and enjoy the recreational and social fellowship of sport.
2. A student organization seeking sports club status must first be a registered student organization, subject to the rules and regulations of the University. Typically, a student organization must be registered with the Center for Campus Life for at least a full academic year before full consideration for Sport Club status.

3. Following the annual student organization registration process via the Center for Campus Life, an organization should request a meeting with Recreational Sports to initiate the application process for sports club affiliation. After obtaining Sport Club status, groups must also comply with the guidelines of Recreational Sports.

**d. Social Fraternities/Sororities**

1. The Center for Campus Life is responsible for the oversight of Social Fraternities and Sororities at Texas Tech University. A group seeking single-sex social fraternity or sorority status must first be recognized by one of the four governing councils for social fraternities and sororities: Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and College Panhellenic Council.
2. All student organizations registering as a single-sex social fraternity or social sorority must show proof of their Title IX exemption by uploading to their registration, a letter from their national affiliate with their IRS 501(c) 7 number.

**2. Unregistered Student Organizations**

- a. Student organizations that are unregistered with the Center for Campus Life may not access University resources; however, unregistered student organizations shall be subject to the TTU Code of Student Conduct and Community Policies (Student Handbook).

**3. Student Organization Policies**

- a. The annual registration process, administered by the Center for Campus Life, will open at the Student Org Academy each spring semester and need to be completed for the future academic year (fall start) by May 1st.
- b. Organizations may register between the opening date in the spring and the first day of classes in the fall semester. After the deadline has passed, organizations can re-register their organization after submitting a Reinstatement Request and attending the required training.
- c. A student organization is eligible for registration if it does not deny membership on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, except that: a registered student organization created primarily for religious purposes may restrict the right to vote or hold office to persons who subscribe to the registered student organization's religious beliefs; and a registered student organization may restrict membership based on the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.
- d. Faculty and staff may hold associate membership to the extent allowed by the student organization's constitution and/or bylaws.
- e. The student organization shall not duplicate the purposes and functions of a previously or currently registered student organization unless the need for duplication is substantiated with the Center for Campus Life.
- f. All funds allocated to a registered student organization from University-controlled sources must be maintained in a University account. Additional resources acquired by fundraising may be kept in an off-campus organizational account.
- g. The student organization shall show initiative in effectively meeting its stated purpose and be lawful and peaceful in its activities. The Center for Campus Life is available to assist in organizational development.
- h. The student organization shall be free from control by any other non-student individual or organization. Alumni and affiliate/ associate members should not be granted voting

privileges nor can they hold executive officer positions. To preserve the governing integrity of a student organization, these privileges can only be vested in currently enrolled students at Texas Tech University.

- i. Registered student organizations shall not use the name, logo or symbols of the University in print, online, and on social media as part of its name or in its publications. In addition, the organization shall not advertise or promote functions or activities in a manner that suggest sponsorship by the University. Registered student organizations are permitted to use the word “Tech” or “Raider” as a part of their names or to use the complete statement “a registered student organization at Texas Tech University.” Approval of the use of logos or symbols protected by Texas Tech University is under the discretion of the Director of Digital Media, Trademark Licensing, and Special Projects in the Athletic Department of Texas Tech University.
- j. Solicitation is prohibited on campus by registered student organizations that may abridge any contractual agreements of Texas Tech University. To avoid violations, registered student organizations should seek clarification on any solicitation initiatives or materials in the Center for Campus Life. Any student organization wishing to solicit on campus must follow the policies and procedures listed in the current TTU Solicitation Policy.
- k. All registered student organization resources must be used to advance and support the organization’s purpose, identified goals, and/or mission.
- l. All registered student organizations must comply with University rules, standards, and policies.
- m. Student organization registration does not imply University approval of either the organization or its functions or activities.

#### **4. Registration Process - Currently Registered Student Organizations**

The registration process must be completed annually for student organizations, fraternities and sororities, and sport clubs to maintain registration status. Student Organizations must be registered to participate in summer organization fairs and the first day of the fall semester to avoid being Frozen. Organizations that are Frozen will still be able to access and register their organization but will not be listed as an organization to the public and do not have the benefits of a registered student organization. Once the organization has submitted their registration and has been approved, they will be removed from Frozen status.

- a. Registration occurs by going to the TechConnect website at <https://ttu.campuslabs.com/engage/> and follow the process established by the Center for Campus Life.
- b. To complete the online process, student organizations must provide the following:
  - i. List of Officers (must include president and treasurer).
  - ii. List of full membership, must have a minimum of three (3) members in addition to a president, treasurer (total minimum organization size of five).
  - iii. List an on-campus address, also known as a Mail Stop or box number.
  - iv. Submit updated copy of constitution and/or bylaws and constitution and/or bylaws of any other local, state or national affiliate organization (if applicable). An organization’s constitution and/or bylaws should address a minimum of these areas:
    - name and purpose, membership requirements, selection process, accountability and removal process, anti-discrimination statement,

officer titles, duties, election and removal process, departmental and/or external relationships, financial procedures, procedures for decision making (quorum and voting), faculty/staff advisor selection process and expectations, and parliamentary authority. It is recommended to include the organization's risk management policy into the bylaws or upload it to the organization's TechConnect portal.

- v. The president or organization must meet with the TTU Faculty/Staff advisor and have them sign a "Advisor Agreement Form" (Electronic signatures are not accepted).
- vi. Upload a signed copy of the Advisor Agreement Form on the last page of registration to complete the process.

#### **5. Registration Process - New and Reinstating Student Organizations**

- a. A student may submit the "intent to form" request, a new student organization application on TechConnect or a "reinstatement" request form, an application on TechConnect for students wanting to reinstate a frozen or inactive student organization. The student is then contacted to attend a required training with the Student Involvement Staff to discuss the registration process. After the form for new student organizations has been submitted and the student has attended the training with the Student Involvement Staff the non-registered group will be placed on a 30 day temporary status, which will allow the group the privileges of the University facilities and publicity venues common to registered student organizations. The 30-day time period should be used to recruit new members, develop a constitution and bylaws and obtain a permanent full-time faculty/staff advisor. A student organization may choose to register within the 30-day time period if they have met all of the requirements to register.
- b. Extensions of the "intent" status are possible under extenuating circumstances and requests should be addressed to the Student Involvement Staff.
- c. New student organizations registering as a single-sex, social fraternity or social sorority must show proof of their Title IX exemption. Upon filing their registration application, groups must submit a letter from their national affiliate with their IRS 501(c) 7 (Internal Revenue Code) tax exemption number from the Internal Revenue Service. This is the mechanism the government uses to verify eligibility for single-sex exemption.

#### **6. Benefits of Registered Student Organizations**

- a. Benefits include: space reservations in the Student Union, opportunity to reserve rooms in academic space (i.e. classrooms), Grounds Use application, mailbox in the Student Union, organization information published online, posting on campus, use of University logo (with permission by the Athletic Department Director of Digital Media, Trademark Licensing, and Special Projects), leadership training, student org resources, access to Involvement Center, and opportunity for storage lockers through the Student Union Main Office.
- b. Registered student organizations may apply for funding through the Student Government Association (SGA) each year provided they are registered as a

student organization with the Center for Campus Life and have completed the annual risk management requirement prior to the application deadline. Registered student organizations that are not funded by SGA may apply for funding from the Core Values Fund each year. .

- c. Sport clubs are entitled to all of the benefits of a registered student organization. In addition, each club receives administrative and financial support from Recreational Sports. Organizations that affiliate with Recreational Sports are not eligible for SGA funding but may receive funding from Recreational Sports.

#### **7. Requirements to Maintain Registration Status**

- a. To maintain its active registration status throughout the academic year, a registered student organization must meet the following criteria:
  - i. Organizations must update the “Roster” on TechConnect at <https://ttu.campuslabs.com/engage/> within ten (10) University working days of any of the following:
    - Election of or change in officers outside of a registration period;
    - Change of full-time faculty or staff advisor;
  - ii. Conduct its affairs in a lawful manner as a collaborative entity, in accordance with the constitution and bylaws it has on file, and applicable policies, rules, regulations and standards of the University and/or federal, state, and/or local statutes.
- b. Solicitation on campus by registered student organizations may not abridge any contractual agreements of Texas Tech University. To avoid violations, registered student organizations should seek clarification on any solicitation initiatives or materials with the Student Involvement Staff.
- c. Ensure off-campus individuals or organizations whose appearance on campus is sponsored by the organization observe all applicable policies, rules, regulations and standards of the University.
- d. Center for Campus Life and/or Office of Student Conduct may suspend the registration of an organization for noncompliance with the regulations and/or standards as set forth in the Student Handbook, Part I, Section D

#### **8. Training Opportunities and Requirements**

The Center for Campus Life is committed to providing a variety of training opportunities to the student leaders, members, and advisors of the registered student organizations. The purpose of training is to further educate student organization leaders, members, and advisors on policy and procedures as well as develop leadership/advising skills.

- a. Student training opportunities include but are not limited to the following:
  - i. Student Org Officer Welcome Back Bash – This event takes place at the start of the fall semester to provide student organization officers the opportunity to make sure their organization is up to date, and aware of programs, opportunities and requirements for the academic year.
  - ii. Leading a Successful Organization workshops – These workshops are hosted 2-3 times a semester on topics that help students lead their organizations successfully throughout the academic year. Topics can include but are not

- limited to: constitutions and bylaws, parliamentary procedure, elections and officer transition, being an inclusive leader, and conflict management.
- iii. President Mixer – This event is hosted once every semester as an opportunity for presidents of student organizations to come together and network with their peers and to make sure their organization is meeting the deadlines throughout the academic year.
  - iv. Student Org Academy (REQUIRED) – This program is hosted once every academic year in the spring to open the registration for the new year, provide resources for operational success, and to facilitate the annual risk management training for student organizations. It is required that student organizations have one officer (preferably the president) in attendance for the entire program.
  - v. Student Org Risk Management Training (REQUIRED) – In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.9361, all registered student organizations are required to attend training sessions on the topic of risk management as it relates to individuals, organization functions, and/or activities and complete the required assessment. Social fraternities and sororities are required to attend additional Clay R. Warren Risk Education Programming annually.
  - vi. Additional student organization trainings may be deemed necessary by the Center for Campus Life and/or the University for organizations to attend.
- b. Advisor training opportunities include but are not limited to the following:
- i. New Advisor Orientation – This program is recommended for new and returning advisors who would like to learn more about their role as a student organization advisor and student organization policies and procedures. This program is hosted at the beginning of each semester.
  - ii. Advisor Roundtable – This program is an opportunity for student organization advisors to come together and discuss topics they are experiencing with their organization, network with other advisors, and gain resources.
  - iii. Advisor EDU workshops – These workshops are offered twice a semester and cover topics that help the advisors successfully support and guide organizations through their day to day operations.
  - iv. Student Org Advisor Risk Management Training (REQUIRED) – In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.9361, student organization advisors are required to attend training sessions on the topic of risk management as it relates to individuals, organization functions, and/or activities. Student Organization advisors are required to attend once but are welcome to attend again if desired. If the university makes changes to the training, advisors will be requested to re-attend.
  - v. Additional advisor trainings that may be deemed necessary by the university and/or Center for Campus Life for advisors to attend.

## **9. Faculty or Staff Advisor**

- a. Each registered student organization shall have a full-time TTU faculty or staff

advisor available to the officers and members for consultation regarding the affairs of the organization. Attendance at organizational meetings and functions is encouraged to incorporate the advisor into the organization's program planning and decision-making. The advisor is recommended to certify the organization's expenditures by co-signing all checks or vouchers. The advisor must oversee adherence to University standards, rules and/or policies as well as the organization's constitution and bylaws.

- b. Registered student organizations may have additional advisors, i.e. coaches (typical of sport clubs) or alumni advisors, to the extent permitted by their constitution and/or bylaws; however, one advisor must be a full-time Texas Tech University faculty or staff member as required and identified in the registration process.
- c. Any individual who is a secondary advisor or coach who is not affiliated with the University or is not a full-time Texas Tech employee should also be included when filling out the registration application, complete with names, addresses, telephone numbers and emails.
- d. Certain student organizations do not choose their advisor(s); rather, they are assigned a full-time faculty or staff person by the department to oversee the administration of those areas, groups and resources.
- e. Established full-time TTU University faculty or staff members, who reduce employment hours below full-time status and maintain an office on-campus, may continue to function as the "Primary" advisor of a student organization with the approval of the Center for Campus Life.

**10. Conduct Procedures for Student Organizations**

- a. All student organizations, registered and operating as a registered organization are held accountable for the *Code of Student Conduct* to include but not limited to academic integrity, sexual misconduct, hazing, and federal/state/local laws (a lack of conviction in any criminal proceeding of members of the organization or the student organization does not preclude the University from proceeding with TTU conduct processes). The student organization conduct process is outlined in Part I Code of Student Conduct, Section D, including processes for the interim suspension and denial of registration for student organizations.