

STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Enabling Language and Philosophy

Frostburg State University (hereafter FSU) acknowledges that student organizations comprise an integral part of the campus community. Board of Regents Policy on Student Affairs (110.0 V-1.00) states that the "President shall establish rules for the administration of student affairs, including but not limited to residence life, student discipline and the handling of student grievances at the institution. Such rules shall serve to further educational and cultural objectives through student government and activities, student organizations, including fraternities and sororities, and may be established at each institution subject to applicable policies of the Regents and of the institution."

The President has the authority to appoint a designee to carry out those responsibilities. The President at FSU has assigned those duties to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the appropriate staff.

Recognizing that membership in a student organization can be of significant educational value, the University supports the concept that membership offers a distinctive alternative to the classroom setting for students. All student organizations share responsibility with the University for facilitating the learning process for all students and for cultivating an environment that enriches their educational experiences. The purpose of this document is to identify and define the areas of mutual interest and reciprocal support existing between the University and student organizations.

The University

The FSU accepts that all-student organizations, which include fraternities and sororities, should be dedicated to excellence at FSU. All organizations at FSU should be dedicated to supporting the overall mission of the University. As the foundation of Student Affairs at FSU, student organizations are created to assist with the overall concepts of educating the whole individual necessitates that student organizations create opportunities for co-curricular student learning experiences.

To this end, the University is dedicated to improving the quality of student life and student leadership on campus by supporting the independent organizations that have the privilege of support from the university and also maintaining the freedom to organize under the guidelines established for all independent groups affiliated with the University. By being receptive to the individual student and collective organizational needs, staff help to foster student growth and involvement throughout the campus, local and regional community.

Student Organizations

Student organizations at FSU develop and maintain membership programs that complement and strengthen the mission of the University. They assist new students in their orientation to the demands of higher education and encourage their membership to maintain high academic standards, thereby aiding in the retention of students.

Student organizations stimulate participation in college programs and develop close cooperation between students and college officials, faculty, and other student organizations. Through intentional efforts, staff at FSU assist in guiding students by providing training for undergraduates in leadership responsibilities. Student organizations also keep the lines of communication open between undergraduates and other outside affiliated and unaffiliated groups.

Student organizations sponsor community service projects that contribute to positive community relations both for the organizations and for the University. Student organizations add and promote diversity and inclusion efforts for a variety of students who are discovering more about who they are as they transition from high school to post-graduate life. Student organizations provide a helping hand of friendship for the achievement of purposeful living both in the college community and in the years to follow.

Conditions of Recognition

Recognition is the formal process by which FSU, through its Department of Student Engagement, permits a student organization to function on the campus and be considered affiliated with the University. For recognition, the term “student organization” refers to organizations whose membership comprises registered and enrolled students at FSU that are not otherwise restricted from participation because of behavioral or academic matters. The student organization must meet these following characteristics:

- o They have organizational goals which are articulated in their organizing documents and approved constitution and or by-laws.
- o They are entitled to be selective within the University nondiscrimination policies (except for fraternities and sororities, which are entitled to single-sex membership under the provision of Section 86.14 of the regulations promulgated under Title IX of the U.S. Education Act Amendments of 1972.)

For a student organization to be granted full recognition by FSU, the organization must:

- Register as a student organization.
- Have their constitution approved and reviewed and authorized by the Department of Student Engagement.
- Must maintain a minimum active membership which is established and reviewed annually by the Department of Student Engagement.
- All members must be registered, degree-seeking students.
- Executive members may not be on academic or disciplinary probation while serving in their executive capacities.
- All student organizations must have a university advisor that is a full-time member of the FSU faculty, staff, administration, or a sanctioned University volunteer.
- If the student organization is sanctioned to operate on a university campus by a nationally recognized organization, agency, or entity, the student organization must comply with established rules and protocols to operate on campus under said named organization.

Support of Institution

Student Organizations are an integral part of the student life program at FSU and, therefore, are afforded certain privileges. A University-affiliated student organization is eligible to:

- Receive the assistance of the Division of Student Affairs in the normal business activities and operations of the organization.
- Use University facilities, equipment, and services according to prescribed policies and procedures.
- Receive professional advising and other support services from the Department of Student Engagement and other University sources.
- Collect dues, sponsor fund-raising events, and solicit funds according to relevant University System of Maryland and FSU policies.
- Receive awards and honors presented to university organizations and members.
- Be listed in university/student publications.
- Sponsor program activities consistent with the purpose of the organization.
- Participate in all intramurals, artistic, social, and other group activities; or programs operated by or under the auspices of FSU.
- Be assisted by the University staff in communicating with off-campus organizations, agencies, and groups.
- Have access to university grade information to provide scholarship data for the group. (Individual grade information can only be provided with authorization from the student).

Expectations of Student Organizations

Because membership and participation in Student organizations at the University is a privilege, the following expectations for student organizations have been set forth:

- Adhere to the tenets of this document.
- Abide by all appropriate rules/regulations of the University and all local, state, and federal laws and statutes.
- Assist in the University's efforts with recruitment, retention, and responsiveness to student needs.
- Provide feedback to the administration on campus climate and policy/procedure development.
- Respect all members of the campus community.
- Respect other student organizations, their members, and their property.
- Participate in campus activities and contribute to campus life by sponsoring or cosponsoring public service and/or campus improvement projects, as well as social programs.
- Accept collective responsibility for the behavior of organization members when on campus and in their off campus residential facilities, sponsored spaces off-campus, or when acting as a group or organization off campus.
- Provide programs in leadership development and other areas critical to member development.
- Create and maintain an atmosphere conducive to academic achievement.
- Participate in an educational program to be developed and implemented by the Department of Student Engagement.
- Maintain organizational viability through sound financial management.

Academic Standards

Because one of the main concerns of the University must be the promotion of the academic success of its students, the following guidelines related to academics are established:

- Each student organization is expected to maintain the minimum grade point standard for individuals set forth by the Department of Student Engagement
- In accordance with stated University policy, a student who is subject to dismissal from the University but who is permitted to continue on scholastic probation may not hold elected or appointed office in any organization during the time of this probation.

Conduct Standards

In order to promote a positive curricular and co-curricular environment, certain guidelines, which apply to all student organizations, are established in the area of student conduct.

- It is expected that all student organizations will demonstrate compliance with federal, state, and local regulations.
- All individuals and organizations must comply with university rules and procedures and abide by the University Student Conduct Code.
- Adjudication of violations of the Student Conduct Code by individuals or organizations will be according to those policies, procedures, and sanctions outlined in the Student Conduct Code.
- Students on disciplinary or academic probation may not serve in executive roles as officers during their period of probation. Upon notification of academic and/or disciplinary probation, students will be advised of status. Failure to adhere to this policy will be cause for the student to be subject to penalties appropriate under the FSU University Student Conduct Code. (Maxient or appropriate software will be the platform to monitor adherence to the policy). *FSU and the state of Maryland require that any individual or group comply with a reasonable request from authorized University personnel in the performance of their official duties.*
-
- All student organizations are expected to have:
 - a. Non-Discrimination statements.
 - b. Hazing prohibition statements.
 - c. Alcohol and drug abuse statements.
 - d. Sexual harassment statements.
 - e. Minimum academic standards.
 - f. Internal disciplinary procedures.

Amendments or Alterations

Amendments to the constitutions of the recognized student organizations at FSU must be approved by the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee. The review is undertaken for legal sufficiency and adherence to university policies and procedures.

Updated 08/14/2023

Reviewed by FSU Executive Cabinet and approved by Dr. Artie Lee Travis, Vice President for Student Affairs

