Classification of Registered Student Organizations

Policy Statement

The University recognizes the role which organized activities serve in enhancing the educational experience of the members of the University community. Intellectual and personal growth takes place in student organizations which have effective leaders and effective members. Students are encouraged to participate in the programs provided by these organizations, and the staff of the University serves to assist student organizations in their programs.

It is essential however, that the lines of authority and responsibility be clearly established. In the area of Registered Student Organizations (RSOs), the University strongly supports the notion of student governance. It is clear however that some organizations enjoy more authority to choose their membership, leadership, use of funding, etc. than others. In those cases, where more autonomy is granted, more responsibility must also be accepted by the group.

As a consequence, it is essential that the relationship between the University and Registered Student Organizations be articulated and clearly understood. This policy is designed to provide such guidance.

This policy was amended on June 9, 2014 to be consistent with the United States Supreme Court decision of Christian Legal Society v. Martinez, 130 S. Ct. 2971 (2010). The University respects the rights of RSOs to set requirements for membership that are consistent with the RSO's purpose and mission.

Entities Affected by the Policy

All members of the EKU community as well as those outside the University which may be affiliated or conduct business with such groups.
Policy Background

There are times when the activities and/or behaviors of RSOs can cause question as to the relationship between the University and these student organizations. Presently there is a formalized registration policy for all RSOs; however, this does not adequately outline the relationship between these groups and the University. There are often misconceptions regarding the role and responsibility of the University for these RSOs. In the Fall of 2009, the Division of Student Affairs and the University Counsel’s Office conducted a scan to understand the way in which other universities structure this relationship. As a result of this scan, this policy was developed as a best practice for Eastern Kentucky University.

Policy Procedures

Sponsored Student Organization (SSO):
These RSOs are closely linked to the University and as a result would have the greatest level of University support and benefits in exchange for significant accountability to the University in areas such as legal compliance, fiscal responsibility and adherence to established community standards.

1) Must operate under the direct supervision of an advisor who is a University faculty or staff member.
2) Must be directly linked to a University Department.
3) Must abide by all University policies and regulations.
4) Must register with the Office of Student Life pursuant to this policy.

Voluntarily-Affiliated Student Organization (VSO):
These RSOs have a basic level of access to University support and benefits in exchange for basic accountability to the University. These RSOs have chosen to affiliate with the University but are NOT agents of the University.

1) Must maintain appropriate level of insurance (if insurance is required by the University, dependent upon the level of risk the group typically is involved in). Any groups required to carry insurance, must have the University named as Additional Insured on their policy.
2) Must abide by all University policies and regulations. However, the University respects the rights of the VSO to determine its own membership.
3) Must register with the Office of Student Life pursuant to this policy.

Non-Affiliated Student Organization (NSO):
These RSOs have no access to University support and benefit. These RSOs have chosen not to affiliate with the University and are NOT agents of the University. These RSOs will essentially be treated as any other groups external to the University.

1) Does not need to register with the University pursuant to this policy.
2) Must abide by all University policies and regulations in the same manner as all members of the University community. However, the University respects the rights of the NSO to determine its own membership.
Requirements / Benefits:

Dependent upon the category of RSO, each RSO must meet the following requirements and has the benefits as noted in the table below. This list is not exhaustive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements / Benefits</th>
<th>SSO</th>
<th>VSO</th>
<th>NSO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Covered by University insurance</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain separate insurance policy as appropriate based on the level of activity risk*</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event specific insurance as appropriate to adhere to University Facility Use Policy</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EKU Faculty/Staff Advisor</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Advisor training</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Requirements**

**Benefits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>SSO</th>
<th>VSO</th>
<th>NSO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligible for SGA Funding</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to accept tax deductible contributions</td>
<td>Yes (only with approval from sponsoring unit)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in OrgSync</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Campus Mailbox</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve University space as an RSO (in compliance with the University Facility Use Policy)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No (but can reserve as an external constituent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Student Life RSO listings</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to use the designated RSO mascot, etc. in accordance with the University Visual Identity Guide</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertise on Campus</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permission to fund raise (according to Univ. Policy)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to bank on-campus</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* To be determined by the RSO Risk Management Committee

**Definitions**

- **Advertise on Campus**: Includes, but is not limited to, flyers, EKU Students Today, ColonelVision etc.
- **EKU Faculty / Staff Advisor**: Must be a currently employed full or part-time member of the EKU faculty or staff who has completed required training as specified by the Office of Student Life.
- **Non-Affiliated Student Organization (NSO)**: These RSOs have no access to University support and benefit. These RSOs have chosen not to affiliate with the University and are NOT agents of the University. These RSOs will essentially be treated as any other groups external to the University.
### Office of Student Life RSO Listings
Includes, but is not limited to, virtual and print listings of all RSOs.

### Registered Student Organization (RSO)
A student organization operating upon the University’s campus that has met the minimum requirements to be recognized as one of the three types of student organizations set forth in this policy.

### RSO Risk Management Committee
Committee comprised of representatives from the following areas: Campus Recreation, Risk Management, Student Government, Student Life, and University Police and others as deemed necessary and appropriate.

### Sponsored Student Organization (SSO)
These RSOs are closely linked to the University and as a result would have the greatest level of University support and benefits in exchange for significant accountability to the University in areas such as legal compliance, fiscal responsibility and adherence to established community standards.

### Voluntarily-Affiliated Student Organization (VSO)
These RSOs have a basic level of access to University support and benefits in exchange for basic accountability to the University. These RSOs have chosen to affiliate with the University but are NOT agents of the University.

### Responsibilities

**Director of Student Involvement**
Oversee the administration of the policy as well as the implementation and the training aspects.

**RSO Risk Management Committee**
Approves recognition of all RSOs into appropriate category. Assesses the level of risk of RSOs and determines the appropriate category for each.

### Violations of the Policy
Violations of this policy will be handled through the process outlined in the RSO Handbook.

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Interpreting Authority

The Associate Vice President for Student Affairs – Campus Life.

Relevant Links

University Hazing Policy
Scheduling of Facilities and Outdoor Space Policy
University Fund Raising Policy
RSO Registration Policy
University Visual Identity Guide

NOTE: The structure of this policy has been adapted from a highly effective program at the University of Michigan.

Approval

Administrative Council  9/7/10
President  9/8/10
Board of Regents  9/24/10
Board of Regents  6/9/14