

POLICY ON STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

I. Scope

The following policy provides minimum standards for the registration and conduct of student organizations at Fisk University. Fisk University is authorized to establish additional policies and procedures affecting student organizations, which are consistent with the provisions of this policy.

II. Types of Student Organizations

Student organizations may be either organizations sponsored by Fisk University such as the student government association, associated student body organizations, professional and honor societies, or organizations officially registered by the institution. Organizations, which may be officially registered on-campus, include the following:

- A. Honors and leadership organizations/recognition societies;
- B. Departmental organizations and professional fraternities and sororities;
- C. Social fraternities and sororities;
- D. Special interest groups (political, religious, athletic, etc).

Registration of a student organization by Fisk University shall neither constitute nor be construed as approval or endorsement by the institution of the purposes or objectives of the organization.

III. General Policies on Student Organizations

- A. No student organization may carry on any activity on the campus of Fisk University unless the organization has been officially registered by the Office of Student Activities.
- B. Fisk University shall not be responsible for injuries or damages to persons or property resulting from the activities of student organizations, or for any debts or liabilities incurred by such organizations.
- C. No student organization shall deny membership to any person on the basis of age, race, sex, religion, handicap or national origin, provided that social fraternities and sororities may have gender-restricted membership.
- D. No student organization or individual shall engage in or condone any form of hazing. Prohibitions include, but are not limited to, any action taken or situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment or ridicule, any form of verbal or physical harassment or

abuse; and engaging in public stunts or morally degrading or humiliating behavior or games whether on or off-campus. Excessive demands on a student's time so as to interfere with academic performance are prohibited. Threatening in any manner or form for the purpose of cajoling individuals into secrecy in regard to breaches (planned, threatened, attempted, or perpetrated) of hazing violations also is prohibited. Hazing activities, which are in violation of Fisk University's regulations such as the misuse of alcohol, drugs, school property, etc. are strictly forbidden.

- E. Student organizations shall be vicariously responsible and liable for the conduct and actions of each member of the organization while acting in the capacity of a member or while attending or participating in any activity of the organization.
- F. No person, group, or organization may use the name of Fisk University in any manner, except registered student organization(s) may use the name of Fisk University following the name of the organization. No person, group, or organization may use the seal or any symbol of Fisk University without the prior written approval of the President of Fisk University or her designee.

IV. Criteria for Recognition of Organizations

- A. Any proposed student organization shall be open to all students of Fisk University who otherwise meet membership requirements. Membership in the organization shall be limited to currently enrolled students, provided that organization(s) may include faculty and staff of Fisk University; spouses of students, faculty and staff; and provided further that professional organizations may include members of the professional and business communities as members.
- B. A proposed organization must represent the interests of the members, and the control of the organization must be within the local campus group. The organization must not have a knowing affiliation with an organization professing illegal aims and goals with a specific purpose to further those illegal aims and goals.
- C. The proposed organization must agree to comply with all policies, regulations, and procedures established by Fisk University and with all federal and state laws and regulations.
- D. The proposed organization must not: (a) have illegal aims and goals; (b) propose activities which would violate regulations of Fisk University or federal or state laws and regulations, materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the institution; or (c) advocate incitement of imminent lawless action which is likely to produce such action.

- E. The proposed organization must have the minimum number of charter members designated by Fisk University, and there must be a demonstration of continuous interest in the purposes of the organization sufficient to afford recognition on a long-term basis. In the event there is not sufficient interest to warrant long-term registration, Fisk University may grant temporary registration to an organization for a limited period of time.
- F. New organizations may be denied registration where the purposes are within the scope of a currently registered organization. No organization may use the same name or a name, which is misleading and similar to the name of the currently registered organization.
- G. The organization must provide for the distribution of all funds and assets in the event of dissolution.

V. Procedures of Organization Registration

- A. In order to become officially registered as a student organization, a group must meet the criteria set forth in Section IV and must provide Fisk University with a minimum of the following:
 - 1. an application or request to start the organization on the form designated by the Office of Student Activities;
 - 2. the proposed constitution and bylaws of the organization, which must clearly contain the following: name, purpose, proposed activities, rules of membership of the organization, the officers, their terms and methods of selection, the proposed nature and frequency of meetings and activities, and the financial plans of the organization, including any proposed fees, dues and assessments;
 - 3. the names and signatures of the charter members of the organization;
 - 4. the names of the faculty advisors (2) and/or the administrative officers of Fisk University who will sponsor the organization.
- B. The designated number of copies of the foregoing document and information must be submitted to the office of Student Activities who is authorized to review and make recommendations concerning proposed organizations. Recommendations regarding registration of a proposed organization must be forwarded by the Dean of Student Life to the President of Fisk University or his designee. Before the organization can be officially registered, its application for registration must be approved by the President's Council.
- C. Any official or body responsible for reviewing or registering proposed organizations may require the sponsors to clarify any materials or information provided in the registration process; to resubmit the application or request

with non-conforming materials; or provisions deleted; or to appear at a hearing for the purpose, aims or proposed activities of the organization.

VI. Nature and Conditions of Registrations

- A. Registration of a student organization for other than a temporary period will be on an annual basis only, effective until the beginning of the next fall term of Fisk University, and shall be subject to annual renewal by Fisk University for each ensuing year.
- B. Annual renewal or registration of an organization shall be dependent upon the organization's demonstration of compliance with the following:
 - 1. It must adhere to the purposes, aims and activities as stated in the approved constitution and by-laws;
 - 2. It must continue to meet all of the requirements for initial registration;
 - 3. It must have remained in compliance with all rules and regulations of Fisk University and all federal and state laws;
 - 4. It must submit all changes in the constitution and by-laws to Fisk University for approval;
 - 5. It must maintain a current list of officers, faculty advisors and sponsors on file with Fisk University; and
 - 6. It must submit all required financial and other reports to Fisk University.

VII. Reports

- A. Each organization is required to submit an annual report concerning its programs and activities during the preceding year. If required, this report shall be reviewed by the Office of Student Life, and shall be a requirement for renewal of registration.
- B. Each organization is required to submit an annual financial report reflecting all revenues received and disbursed by the organization, and/or an interim financial report or such a report concerning any fundraising activity of the organization. This report shall be a requirement for renewal of registration.

VIII. Probation, Suspension, and Withdrawal of Registration

- A. An organization may be placed on probation, be suspended, or registration may be withdrawn by the Director of Student Activities for any of the following reasons:

1. The organization fails to maintain compliance with the initial requirements for recognition;
 2. the organization ceases to operate as an active organization;
 3. the organization requests withdrawal of registration;
 4. the organization operates or engages in any activity in violation of the rules and regulations of Fisk University or federal or state laws; or
 5. the organization fails to submit any required reports.
- B. An organization which is placed on probation may continue to hold meetings but may not sponsor any activity or program. An organization, which is placed under suspension, may not engage in or sponsor any activity or program and may not hold meetings. Where registration of an organization is withdrawn, it shall cease to exist as an organization.
- C. In the event an organization is placed on probation or suspension, or registration is withdrawn on the basis on Section A.4.), the organization shall be afforded the opportunity for a hearing before the appropriate institutional representative or University Tribunal Council.

IX. Officers of Student Organizations

No student who is under academic, social probation, or suspension from Fisk University shall be eligible to become or maintain the status of an officer of an organization.

X. Fiscal Procedures

- A. Each organization shall maintain a sound financial system related to the collection and disbursement of revenue in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. An organization may be subject to audit by representatives of Fisk University at any time, and appropriate financial records shall be maintained for the purpose of audit.
- B. Each organization shall designate an officer of the organization who is responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds and the maintenance of books and records.

XI. Programs and Activities

- A. The use of any campus property or buildings by an organization shall be subject to the rules and regulations of Fisk University concerning use of property and facilities. All organizations registered pursuant to this policy

shall be "affiliated organizations" for the purposes of institutional policies concerning use of campus property and facilities.

- B. Except for routine meetings of the organization, no on-campus program or activity shall be engaged, unless approved by the Office of Student Affairs and/or officials of Fisk University. Fisk University requires prior approval of the off-campus programs and activities. Prior to approval, Fisk University may require a specified number of officials or security officers for any event, activity or program.
- C. Any fundraising activity on-campus shall be for the benefit of the organization as a whole or a charity, and no funds shall be distributed to the officers or members of an organization for personal profit or gain.
- D. No guest speakers shall be invited to the campus except pursuant to policies of Fisk University concerning guests or off-campus speakers.

GENERAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES

The Pan-Hellenic Council and the Office of Student Life schedule Greek Activities. Regulations are included in the Advisor's Guide for Student and Greek Letter Organizations.

Article I. Authorization

Fraternities and Sororities, admitted to the Fisk campus in 1927 and 1928 by vote of the Faculty and the Board of Trustees are organized under National Charter, and local matters are under the jurisdiction of the Pan-Hellenic Council and the Office of Student Affairs.

These fraternity and sorority regulations govern the life and activities of fraternities and sororities at Fisk University. No fraternity, sorority, student, teacher, committee, or administrative officer is at liberty to arbitrarily modify or set aside these regulations. Any desired change must be presented to the President who, in turn, will approach the appropriate parties for consideration of the proposed change(s).

Section 1

The University recognizes four sororities: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho, and Zeta Phi Beta; and four fraternities: Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, and Phi Beta Sigma.

Section 2

Any other organization desiring recognition as a fraternity or sorority must petition the University's Faculty Assembly, through the Dean of Student Life, submitting a list of its prospective members and a general statement of its purpose.

Section 3

The organization must be part of a national body.

Section 4

The name of the fraternities and sororities recognized by the University shall be published in its annual catalogue.

Section 5

Each fraternity and sorority shall be represented on the Pan-Hellenic Council unless suspended by the University and/or their National Greek Organization.

Article II. Functions Of The Advisor

Section 1

Each fraternity and sorority shall have two faculty or staff advisors chosen from the active membership of the particular fraternity or sorority, unless otherwise approved by the Office of Student Life.

Section 2

All advisors shall be members of the Pan-Hellenic Council.

Section 3

The Advisor is encouraged to attend Pan-Hellenic Council meetings.

Article III. Requirement For University Membership

Section 1

In order to be considered for membership in a Greek Organization, the student must meet the following University requirements:

- A. Have been in residence at Fisk University two semesters.
- B. Have completed thirty-one (31) semester hours in residence.
- C. Have a grade point average of 2.50 during the preceding semester, as well as a cumulative average of 2.50.
- D. Not be on academic and/or disciplinary probation.

E. Transfer students must be in residence at Fisk University two semesters.

Section 2

A member of a fraternity or sorority who fails to maintain a 2.50 grade point average every semester and cumulative is not in good standing.

Section 3

It is understood that these regulations are minimal and that the national or local body may set higher requirements for a chapter.

Section 4

Each fraternity and sorority shall furnish the Office of Student Life and the Pan-Hellenic Council a complete roster of members and officers of the local chapter at the beginning of each semester.

Article IV. General Regulations

Section 1

The University strictly prohibits and expressly denounces the practice of hazing in any form at any time. See Article VI.

Section 2

Organizations and members are prohibited from requiring applicants to make gifts to any organization or to any individual.

Section 3

All official University functions shall take precedence over fraternity or sorority activities.

Section 4

No meeting of fraternities or sororities may be held during class hours.

Section 5

No student may participate in the intake process unless the Office of Student Life has cleared his or her name.

Section 6

The required group grade point average norm for each fraternity and sorority is 2.50. If the average for two successive semesters falls below this norm, the fraternity or sorority shall be suspended automatically. An average of two successive semesters above this norm shall reinstate the fraternity or sorority suspended.

Section 7

The semester average for each fraternity and sorority will be on file in the Office of Student Life by mid-semester of each semester.

Article V. Policies And Procedures

Membership Intake Program

In February 1990, the eight (8) historically Black Greek-letter organizations agreed to eliminate "pledging" as a prerequisite for membership, effective September 1990. Fisk University supports this historical decision.

1. There shall be no "pledge" or "pre-pledge" process in any of the constituent organizations comprising the National Pan Hellenic Council.
2. Each organization shall develop its own membership intake process/program, which shall be limited to the National approved program, which may or may not include:
 - (a) An Interest Activity (tea, rush, get-to-together, etc.).
 - (b) Conducting an application process/evaluation.
 - (c) Conducting a membership induction/initiation ceremony, that will take no longer than seventy-two (72) hours.
3. Membership recruitment is limited to an acceptable process/program signed by the organization president, advisors and approved by the Office of Student Life.
4. Verification of academic and citizenship eligibility by the Office of Student Life is required prior to an invitation to be considered for membership.
5. Membership intake is limited to once per academic year, during the Fall semester, one week prior to Thanksgiving.
6. There will be no "pledge clubs" or "interest groups."

7. There will be no "pledge lines or pledge activities" of any type in association with membership recruitment (i.e. dress-alike, walk in lines, eating together, etc.).
8. All activities related to the membership intake process will be held on-campus unless the Office of Student Life grants prior approval.
9. No Membership Intake process/program will take place during Greek Weeks unless the Office of Student Life grants prior approval.
10. There will be no little sister and little brother groups.

Article VI. Statement Of Policy On Hazing

A PURPOSE

It is the responsibility of all student organizations to encourage an atmosphere of learning, social responsibility, and respect for human dignity and to provide positive influence and constructive development for members and aspiring members. "Hazing" is an unproductive and hazardous custom that is incongruous with this responsibility and has no place in university life, either on or off-campus.

The purpose of this policy is to define hazing and provide guidelines with regards to it which student organizations and their members must follow.

B. PROHIBITION AND SANCTIONS

Hazing as defined in this handbook is prohibited:

1. Organizations found to be in violation of this policy may lose their status as recognized student organizations of the University; and
2. Individual members who are found to be in violation of this handbook are in violation of the Student Judicial Code and may be disciplined in accordance with the University's disciplinary procedures
3. Pledging/Hazing is illegal on Fisk University Campus or any campus or higher education institution in Tennessee (Tennessee Code Annotated §49-7-123).

C. DEFINITION HAZING:

The word Hazing is any intentional action taken, activity required, or situation created, however communicated, involving or resulting in abusive physical contact, mental harassment, excessive mental or physical discomfort and/or

embarrassment to any individual. This policy applies to activities which take place on or off the campus so long as they take place in the name of the organization involved.

The following are examples of actions which might constitute hazing:

1. Paddling;
2. Requiring or compelling excessive exercise and calisthenics;
3. Road trips (involuntary excursions);
4. Requiring or compelling excessive exposure to uncomfortable elements;
5. Requiring or compelling activities creating unnecessary work, duties, detention, or any duties which impair academic efforts;
6. Verbal harassment;
7. Requiring or compelling the wearing in public of apparel which is not in good taste; and
8. Requiring the forced consumption of any liquid or solid substance or drugs, or the forced inhalation of any substance.

D. RESPONSIBILITY

The Vice President of Student Life, or designated representative, is the University Official who has primary responsibility for administering this policy. **Any incident of hazing must be reported to the Office of Student Life, or designated representative.**