

(Additions to rules are bolded and underlined, deletions to rules are indicated by strikethrough)

**EXISTING RULE:**

41. Student Organizations (Revised: 2006)

41.1 Student organizations may be officially recognized when formed for purposes that are consistent with the philosophy and goals that have been developed for the creation and existence of Texas A&M University. Approval for recognition is granted by the Vice President for Student Affairs through the Director of Student Activities. In order to be recognized and to retain official recognition, student organizations must meet certain requirements. Student groups complying with the following conditions shall enjoy the privileges associated with the status of being officially recognized by the university including use of university name, university facilities for meetings, university logo and trademarks, and university property for concessions. To be recognized, student groups must:

41.1.1 Have an approved full-time (employed by the university at least on a nine-month basis) faculty or staff advisor who should disseminate information contained in the Student Rules to recognized student organization.

41.1.2 File an annual request with the [Student Activities Office](#) for official recognition for the school year providing signatures of the university advisor and the student officers authorized to withdraw money, the names and addresses of all advisors and officers of the group, and a current constitution and by-laws that comply with the provisions outlined in the Student Organization Manual. Any changes to the organization's constitution and by-laws, shall be submitted to the Student Activities office in a timely manner.

41.1.3 Deposit and withdraw all funds of the organization in the Student Organization Finance Center and/or with the University Fiscal Department. All funds must be deposited no later than the next business day after collection. The organization's advisor must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

41.1.4 Conduct the activities of the organization in a manner that reflects the highest ideals of the university.

41.1.5 Avoid duplication of purposes, goals and activities with other organizations.

41.1.6 Operate student publications of the organization in the matter of finance under those provisions established by the Student Publications Board.

41.1.7 Be open in its membership unless otherwise permitted under applicable federal law.

The aforementioned criteria are minimum requirements set for the recognition of student organizations. Organizations may choose to set higher standards for membership including higher officer grade point requirements, higher membership grade point requirements, etc.

41.2 Students selected, elected or appointed as officers (an officer is an individual in a leadership position as defined in the organization's constitution) in officially recognized student organizations shall:

41.2.1 Have a minimum grade point ratio (GPR) as stated below and meet that minimum GPR in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office.

41.2.1.1 For undergraduate students, the minimum GPR is 2.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer

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coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio prior to election/appointment, at least six credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s).

41.2.1.2 For graduate level students the minimum GPR is a 3.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least four hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio prior to election/appointment, at least four credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s) unless fewer credits are required as they complete the final stages of their degree.

41.2.2 Be in good standing ([see 27.1.4](#)) with the university and enrolled:

41.2.2.1 at least half time (six or more credit hours), if an undergraduate student (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office. Students enrolled in the Blinn TEAM program are also eligible to hold an office, as long as the student is meeting all applicable Blinn TEAM requirements and is in good standing with the program.

41.2.2.2 at least half time (four or more credits), if a graduate level student (unless fewer credits are required in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement) during their term of office.

41.2.3 Be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in 41.2.1 and 41.2.2.

41.3 Student religious organizations desiring to operate on campus are subject to all rules pertaining to other student organizations. Recognized student religious organizations are not eligible for financial support from the university.

41.4 Student organizations and their advisors are responsible for compliance with university student rules and state and federal laws.

41.5 More information and guidelines concerning recognized student organizations are available in the Student Organization Manual.

41.6 Actions of recognized student organizations are subject to review. Failure to abide by the University Student Rules may result in organizational disciplinary hearings by the director of student activities or his or her designate. Sanctions may range from documented verbal reprimand through revocation of recognition privileges. Sanction procedures are outlined in the Student Organization Manual.

41.7 The Department of Student Life in cooperation with the Department of Student Activities establishes the process for hearing cases brought against fraternities and sororities who are members of the Interfraternity Council, Collegiate Panhellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and Multicultural Greek Council.

41.8 Minors who are not students at Texas A&M University are ineligible for membership and may not participate in regular activities of the Texas A&M University recognized student organizations. Exception: Minors who are dependents of Texas A&M University students, faculty or staff members will be allowed to participate in club activities if their parents: (a) are members of the student organization; (b) are in attendance while minor dependents are participating; and (c) are willing to accept responsibility for accidents and injuries to minors while participating.

### **RULE WITH PROPOSED CHANGES:**

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#### 41. Student Organizations (Revised: ~~2006-2009~~)

41.1 Student organizations may be officially recognized when formed for purposes that are consistent with the philosophy and goals that have been developed for the creation and existence of Texas A&M University. Approval for recognition is granted by the Vice President for Student Affairs through the Director of Student Activities. In order to be recognized and to retain official recognition, student organizations must meet certain requirements. Student ~~groups~~ **organizations** complying with the following conditions shall enjoy the privileges associated with the status of being officially recognized by the university including use of university name, university facilities for meetings, university logo and trademarks, and university property for concessions. To be recognized **and/or maintain their recognized status**, student ~~groups~~ **organizations** must:

41.1.1 Have an approved ~~full-time (employed by the university at least on a nine-month basis)~~ faculty or staff advisor, **employed at a level consistent with the categorization of the organization (as defined in the “Acknowledgement of Student Organization Advisor Expectations”)**, who should disseminate information contained in the Student Rules to the recognized student organization.

41.1.2 File an annual request **for official recognition** with the ~~Student Activities Office~~ **Department of Student Activities** ~~for official recognition for the school year.~~ **An organization’s annual recognition cycle should begin in the month that the organization elects or selects leadership, as defined by the organization’s constitution. Each organization should** provide: signatures of the university advisor and the student officers authorized to withdraw money; the names and ~~addresses~~ **contact information** of all advisors and officers of the group; and a current constitution and by-laws that comply with the provisions outlined in the Student Organization Manual. Any changes to the organization’s constitution and by-laws shall be submitted to the ~~Student Activities office~~ **Department of Student Activities** in a timely manner.

41.1.3 Deposit and withdraw all funds of the organization in the Student Organization Finance Center and/or with the University Fiscal Department. All funds must be deposited no later than the next business day after collection. The organization’s advisor must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

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41.2 Students selected, elected or appointed as officers (an officer is an individual in a leadership position as defined in the organization’s constitution) in officially recognized student organizations shall:

41.2.1 Have a minimum **cumulative and semester** grade point ratio (GPR) as stated below and meet that minimum **cumulative and semester** GPR in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office.

41.2.1.1 For undergraduate students, the minimum **cumulative and semester** GPR is 2.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision.

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**JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE:**

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41.1 The last sentence, "To be recognized, student groups must:" implies that the items listed should be completed prior to gaining recognition. However, some of these items can not be done prior to recognition and, instead, should be done after becoming recognized in order to maintain their status as a recognized organization.

41.1.1 We do allow part-time faculty/staff and graduate assistants to advise certain organizations. Categories for student organizations, and those who are eligible to advise them, are outlined in our Advisor Acknowledgement of Expectations which has been approved by OGC and in our Student Organization Manual.

41.1.2 The rule should reflect the official name of the department which is the Department of Student Activities. Also, an organization's recognition cycle does not necessarily correspond to the "school year." It is based on the month an organization elects new leadership which includes organizations in all 12 months of the year and is good for the following year (i.e. February to February).

41.1.4 We want to remove this statement from the rules (due to the difficulty with enforcing this rule) and make the statement an "aspiration" of student organizations defined in the preamble

41.1.6 We propose deleting this clause. We are not certain where this rule came from or what it is referring to. We have gotten feedback from both Carol Binzer (current Student Media Board Chair) and Bob Wegener (Gen. Mgr. of Student Media) who has recommended that the clause be removed from student rules, as there is no evidence that such a matter has ever come before the board. The Department of Student Activities concurs with their recommendation.

41.2.1 the current rule does not define whether the GPR requirement is for the semester GPR or cumulative GPR. It only specifies the semester in which the GPR should apply. We use both the cumulative and semester GPR to determine eligibility for the semesters specified. The change is to clarify that both GPRs will be used.

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### COMMENTS:

- Passed by Student Rules and Regulations Committee on January 16, 2009.
- **Approved by Faculty Senate on April 13, 2009.**
- **Approved by President on July 20, 2009.**

### SUBMITTED BY:

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