

Dr. Anne Reber
Dean of Student Life

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 6, 2020

TO: Dr. Andrew Klein
Speaker, Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. Anne Reber
Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Texas A&M Student Rules

Attached please find proposed revisions to the Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee. These changes are for the following section:

Change to Rule **41. Student Organizations**

Approved by the Student Rules and Regulations Committee on March 6, 2020.

Approved by Faculty Senate on May 11, 2020.

Approved by President on May 27, 2020.

PROPOSAL

Extensive rewrite of Rule 41 to update language.

JUSTIFICATION

Updated language to be more modern and relevant.

PROPOSED BY

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Date: August 21, 2019

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Present Rule 41 with deletions ~~struck~~, rewrite below is in **bold red font**.

41. Student Organizations

(Revised: 2014 **2020**)

~~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 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 organizations must:~~

~~41.1.1. Have an approved 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 Department of Student Activities. 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 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 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.~~

~~41.1.4. Avoid duplication of purposes, goals and activities with other organizations.~~

~~41.1.5. 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 cumulative and semester grade point average (GPA) as stated below and meet that minimum cumulative and semester GPA in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office.~~

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41.2.1.1. For undergraduate students, the minimum cumulative and semester GPA 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 coursework to qualify toward a grade point average 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 cumulative and semester GPA is a 3.00 and for first professional students the minimum cumulative and semester GPA is 2.50. 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 average 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 27.1.2) 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.

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/ her designee. Sanctions may range from documented verbal reprimand through revocation of recognition privileges. Sanction procedures are outlined in the Student Organization Manual.

41.7. The Offices of the Dean 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.

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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.

41. Student Organizations

(Revised: 2020)

Student organization leaders must meet minimum requirements, as outlined herein, in order to maintain the recognition of their student organizations. Should they fail to meet these requirements, a student leader will be ineligible to hold an office in a student organization. Students wishing to contest their ineligibility may submit an appeal through the Department of Student Activities as outlined in the Student Organization Manual. Organizations choosing to set higher standards for their membership or leadership are responsible for holding members accountable to these higher standards.

41.1. Texas A&M University acknowledges that self-governing student organizations contribute significantly to the educational, social, and personal development of students, as well as to the vibrant culture of the institution. The University further recognizes that students may freely establish and participate in these organizations within the context of local, state, and federal law, as well as University policies and Student Rules. In order to receive and retain official recognition, student organizations must be granted approval by the Vice President for Student Affairs through the Director of Student Activities or their designee, and they must annually meet certain requirements. Privileges associated with the status of being officially recognized by the University include the use of University name, logos, and trademarks as defined by the University Brand Guide, University facilities for meetings, and University property for solicitation as defined in Student Rule 39. To be recognized and/or maintain their recognized status, student organizations must:

41.1.1. Have an approved faculty or staff advisor, employed at a level consistent with the categorization of the organization and committed to upholding the expectations of an advisor as defined in the "Acknowledgement of Student Organization Advisor Expectations" and the Student Organization Manual.

41.1.2. Annually renew their recognition with the Department of Student Activities. 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 must provide: signatures of the University advisor and the student officers authorized to withdraw money; the names and contact information of all advisors and officers of the group; an up-to-date profile of the student organization; and a current constitution and by-laws that comply with the provisions outlined in the Student Organization Manual. Student leader and advisor trainings must also be completed during the renewal period. Texas A&M may identi-

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fy required enhanced expectations for organizations with a specialized/higher degree of risk or affiliation with the university.

41.1.3. Deposit and withdraw all funds of the organization in the Student Organization Finance Center and/or with a University fiscal account unless an on-campus banking exemption has been submitted and approved by the Department of Student Activities.

41.1.4. A student organization must maintain a name and mission that distinguishes it from other existing organizations. Organizations may not be formed for the purposes of participation in illegal activities or activities that violate the rights of others.

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 average (GPA) as stated below and meet that minimum cumulative and semester GPA in the semester immediately prior to the election/selection/appointment, the semester of election/selection/appointment, and semesters during the term of office.

41.2.1.1. For undergraduate students, the minimum cumulative and semester GPA is 2.00 and for first professional students the minimum cumulative and semester GPA is 2.50. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration unless fewer credits are required as they complete the final stages of their degree. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may qualify toward a grade point average prior to election/selection/appointment if at least six credit hours 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 cumulative and semester GPA is a 3.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least five hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration unless fewer credits are required as they complete the final stages of their degree. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may qualify toward a grade point average prior to election/selection/appointment, if at least five credit hours have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s).

41.2.2. Be in good standing (see 27.1.2) with the University and enrolled:

41.2.2.1. at least half time (six or more credit hours), if an undergraduate or first professional students (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office. A students enrolled in the Blinn TEAM and or Engineering Academy at Blinn College-Bryan programs are is eligible to hold an office, as long as the student is meeting all applicable eligibility requirements outlined herein.

41.2.2.2. at least half time (five 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.

41.3. Student organizations and their advisors are responsible for compliance with University student rules and local, state, and federal laws, as well as expectations and additional guidelines outlined in the Student Organization Manual.

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

41.5. 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 their designee. Sanctions may range from a warning through revocation of recognition privileges. Disciplinary procedures are outlined in the Student Organization Manual.

41.6. 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.

April 8, 2020

Dr. Klein:

Below please find some additional explanation of the changes (beyond that provided by each submitter of the rule change proposal) that were recommended by the Rules & Regulations Committee on March 6, 2020. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anne Reber'.

Anne Reber, PhD
Chair, Rules & Regulations Committee

Rule 41 Student Organizations

Rule 42 Activities of University-Recognized Student Organizations

Both these rule changes, submitted by Jennifer Boyle, Associate Director of Student Activities, were proposed to reflect all the changes to processes and language since the rules were last updated in 2014 and 2003, respectively. The changes appear extensive at first glance but that is because a significant number of years have passed since these rules have been updated. The changes primarily include deleting redundant information, deleting entire sections that were outdated, combining remaining sections, edits to reflect changes made to other Student Rules that impacted these two rules (e.g., grades, credit hours), and reference to the Student Organization Manual which is the home for most day-to-day information needed by students and organization advisors.