

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 **42. Activities of University-Recognized 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

Please see attached rule proposal form.

JUSTIFICATION

Please see attached rule proposal form.

PROPOSED BY

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Date: August 21, 2019

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Present Rule 42 with additions in **bold red font** and deletions ~~struck~~

(Revised: 2020)

42. Activities of University-Recognized Student Organizations

The university is a forum for ideas and their exchange. Such exchange can only occur on a scholarly plane if good order is maintained and standards of decorum and good behavior are recognized by all. The university recognizes that some activities will have audiences of a single class, seminar or organization, and that others will be addressing themselves to a wider spectrum of the university community. Programming committees of the Memorial Student Center are specifically designated to present programs to an all-university audience. It is the responsibility of the university to provide the climate and conditions for teaching, research, extension and other services. **As an institution of higher learning, Texas A&M University strives to create an environment conducive to the free exchange of ideas among its students, faculty, and staff. Recognized student organizations are valuable participants in this exchange, whether they have audiences of a single class or a wider spectrum of the university community. It is the responsibility of the university to provide the climate and conditions needed to fulfill its mission.** The following rules are designed to serve these objectives:

~~42.1 Any university-recognized organization may sponsor speakers or programs for its own group. The organization may sponsor programs or speakers for an all-university audience if approved to do so by the Director of Student Activities. An "all-university audience" shall generally be defined as one that is advertised outside the membership of the organization and is promoted as being open to persons who are not members of the sponsoring organization(s).~~

42.1 Any recognized student organization may sponsor speakers or programs for its own group. The privilege of inviting speakers and performers carries with it important responsibilities to ensure that the proper objectives of the university are not compromised. The university will protect the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution. Texas A&M University maintains its right to regulate reasonable time, place and manner restrictions concerning acts of expression and dissent. The university reserves the right to locate any assembly so as to ensure that the activity does not interfere with the normal operation of the university or interfere with the rights of others. The University President or their duly authorized representative may order an event to be terminated on grounds that it constitutes a disruptive activity as defined by the Texas Education Code (See Appendix I and Appendix XI).

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Any member of the faculty or staff or any student who resists such an order shall be subject to disciplinary action.

42.2 If a recognized student organization is entering into a contract on behalf of their organization, the contract must be approved by the following **reviewed according to the procedures below, with further guidance outlined in the Student Organization Manual. Student organizations are responsible for compliance with the expectations of their agreements.**

42.2.1 If the contract is for an all-university audience, then the contract needs to be approved in compliance with the Texas A&M University President's Delegation of Authority for Contract Administration;

42.2.1 If the contract is paid using a student organization's fiscal account, then the contract needs to follow applicable university procurement procedures as outlined in Purchasing Procedures 25.07.03.M2.01 and be reviewed and approved by the university department head responsible for the account or their designee and/or Contract Administration as appropriate.

42.2.2 If the contract involves films or events subject to copyright laws, then the Director of Student Activities, in conjunction with the Director of the Memorial Student Center, shall monitor those contracts;

42.2.2 If the contract is paid using a student organization's Student Organization Finance Center account or approved banking equivalent, then the contract is eligible for a courtesy contract review by the Department of Student Activities prior to the execution of the contract, as defined in the Student Organization Manual.

42.2.3 In all other cases, the organization is expected to **must** provide their university **organization** advisor an opportunity to review the contract prior to execution.

Ultimately, student organizations, and not Texas A&M University, are accountable for the financial obligations associated with the execution of the contracts.

42.2.4 No student organization may enter into a contract on behalf of Texas A&M University. Student organizations, and not Texas A&M University, are accountable for the financial obligations associated with the execution of the contracts.

42.3 The privilege of inviting speakers and performers carries with it important responsibilities to ensure that the proper objectives of the university are not compromised. The university re-

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~~serves the right to cancel any event it deems likely to cause an interruption in the university's orderly activities. The president or his duly authorized representative may order an event to be terminated on grounds that it constitutes a disruptive activity as defined by the Texas Education Code. (See [Appendix I](#) and [Appendix XI](#)) Any member of the faculty or staff or any student who resists such an order shall be subject to disciplinary action.~~

42.4 **42.3** Because the university is judged by the action of its students, no individual, group or other organization may use the institution's name without the express authorization of the institution except to identify the institutional affiliation. Institution approval or disapproval of any event may not be stated or implied by any individual, group or organization as a position held by the university.

42.5 **42.4** It is expected that all student organizations will have their events, whether on or off campus, reviewed and approved by their university advisor(s).

42.6 **42.5** State law as it regards candidates for public office and campaigning on public property and all other applicable statutes must be observed. Any recognized student organization wishing to bring in this type of speaker must first get the approval of the Director of Student Activities. **sponsor a partisan political activity on campus must provide reasonable notice of the event to appropriate university officials and follow the political activity guidelines as outlined in University Rule 07.03.01.M1.**

42.7 ~~The university prohibits the use of any of its symbols, insignias or other identifying marks in any political endorsements, campaigns or elections.~~

42.8 **42.6** Recognized student organizations must seek advance approval to use university marks on commercial products or service promotions, purchase the products from a licensee and have a design approved by the [Office of Collegiate Licensing](#). **Texas A&M University Office of Brand Development. Student organizations are subject to branding standards as defined in the University Brand Guide.**