

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

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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 The changes primarily include deleting redundant information, deleting entire sections that were outdated, combining remaining sections, edits to reflect changes made to other Student Rules that impacted these two rules (e.g., grades, credit hours), and reference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.

**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

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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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Department: Student Activities  
Department Mail Stop: 1236 TAMU  
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.



**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.*

**PROPOSAL**

Please see attached rule proposal form.

**JUSTIFICATION**

Please see attached rule proposal form.

**PROPOSED BY**

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Phone: 979-862-3912  
E-Mail Address: jenboyle@tamu.edu  
Department: Student Activities  
Department Mail Stop: 1236 TAMU  
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.**