STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS at OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Student organizations provide living laboratories in which leadership skills are gained and honed. They give students an opportunity to pursue their interests, to succeed, to fail and most importantly, to grow. Not all academic classrooms provide the opportunity to take responsibility and have accountability at the level that involvement in a student organization will allow. Leadership is not merely a collection of skills; leaders must forge their style through experiences that allow them to build and apply organizational and individual capacities for the public good. Student organizations are one of the few opportunities students have to gain hands-on experience working towards the public good.

Oregon State University recognizes the contributions of Student Organizations in creating a compelling learning environment that prepares students to live in a multi-cultural society and work in a global community. The University recognizes that all students should have access to form and join organizations of their own choosing to enhance the educational experience, support holistic personal development and retention. In order to facilitate the development these opportunities for involvement, the following values serve as a compass in determining the classification and support for student organizations at OSU:

**Alignment** - As advisors, administrators, educators, students and student organizations we are aligned with the core mission and values of Oregon State University.

**Access** - We believe that a student’s ability to form and join organizations of their own choosing is a high priority. As a result, we are committed to having clear & visible, student- friendly resources and processes that facilitate ease of access. Access is inclusive of but not limited to a mentoring relationship, advising, assistance with recruitment, and access to meeting and activity space.

**Engagement** - We recognize the value of co-curricular and academic involvement throughout the student experience and are dedicated to facilitating partnerships with students that support shared accountability, responsibility and learning. Through engagement with student organizations, students develop leadership and organizational skills which enhance knowledge, holistic growth, community development and student retention.

**Health & Community** - We support clubs and organizations that enhance our community by providing opportunities for leadership, learning, diversity, and social responsibility. The health of the community will be one of purposeful, open, safe, just and celebrative outcomes that allow students and the campus to flourish in meeting institutional goals.

With intention the University is establishing a student organization recognition process that will create an environment that supports a facilitator model of relationship as defined in *The Rights and Responsibilities of a Modern University*. In this book, Bickel and Lake (1999) contend that “The vision of a facilitator model university illustrates what is reasonable and positive in the relationships among students, universities and the legal system…. A legal paradigm that asks colleges to exercise reasonable care…and asks students to be accountable…is fair, balanced and safer, and contributes to a sense of community. In the new classification system the University and student organizations share the responsibility in the development, practices and outcomes of Recognized Student Organizations. With clarity of roles, benefits and expectations, this process will lead to a fair, balanced, safe and involved community.
Oregon State University is committed to supporting student organizations through a process that serves the interests of both the University and student organizations. This process will result in the following classifications, defining the level of responsibility of student organizations and their relationship with the University while also helping to facilitate the allocation of resources.

**University Departmental Student Organization (DSO)**

A University Departmental Student Organizations (DSO) is a student organization that operates under the direct guidance of a Sponsoring Unit and is in closest relationship with the University. Sponsored status for a student organization is a statement of recognition by Oregon State University that the student organization is a key element in helping the University realize its mission. Sponsorship from a University department indicates two things:

1. That the University views the organization, through its efforts, as worthwhile and vital, and therefore commits itself to provide support for the organization and its endeavors.
2. While recognizing the importance of the organization’s self-direction and student leadership, the organization represents the University; therefore, a high level of accountability from the organization is required.

University department that sponsors a student organization is committed to supporting that organization’s mission and activities. These organizations are inherently linked to the University because of their role in enhancing education, representing OSU and/or presenting events that are considered an integral part of the institution. As a result of this relationship, these organizations may receive added benefits from the sponsoring unit and are held to the same level of institutional scrutiny as the unit is held.

As a result of this relationship, DSOs must be approved by an executive officer, dean, director or designee of a University Department. Sponsoring units must provide a professional staff member to act as the primary Campus Activity Advisor to the DSO. In addition to formal advising, department support may take any of the following forms: financial support, administrative, equipment and/or University space allocation, etc.

The activities and events of these organizations are considered to involve a higher level of complexity because of their scope and perceived association with and representation of the University. DSOs have access to certain University-controlled benefits and resources and are accountable to the Sponsoring Unit for legal compliance, fiscal responsibility, risk management and adherence to established community standards.

In order to be recognized as a University Departmental Student Organization, the organization must be in formal relationship with a University Department and:

- Complete recognition process on an annual basis that includes:
  a. Submit an annual Organization Information Form.
  b. Complete/review a sponsorship agreement detailing the nature of the relationship the Sponsoring Unit.
  c. Submit club constitution/governing documents and any revisions.
  d. Agree to comply with Standards of Conduct for Recognized Student Organizations and maintain accountability to the University for Institutional Policies and procedures.

- Maintain 100% OSU student membership and submit roster of currently active OSU student members through the online data system.

- Maintain a minimum of 4 currently enrolled OSU student.
• Have a professional staff member from the sponsoring unit appointed/assigned as primary campus activity advisor.

• Maintain financial accountability to the University for all University funds received. These funds must be maintained in a Sponsoring Department, MU Funds In Trust or Foundation Account.

• Maintain good standing with the University, all governing boards within the University to which the organization belongs and all chartering, sponsoring or governing organizations with whom the organization affiliates.

• Officers must annually complete University base-line training in addition to any articulated in the sponsorship agreement.

• Register all “official” organization events - including travel - through the online data system

Voluntary Student Organization (VSO)

A Voluntary Student Organization is a student organization composed of 100% Oregon State University students that contributes to the mission and culture of the University. These organizations are recognized as OSU Voluntary Student Organizations by the Student Events & Activities Center (a University Department may be approved as a designee). The activities and events of these organizations primarily do not represent the University unless sponsored by a University Department through an Event Sponsorship Agreement. VSOs have access to or may apply for certain University-controlled benefits and resources. VSOs are accountable to the University for legal compliance, fiscal responsibility, risk management and adherence to established community standards.

In order to be Recognized as a Voluntary Student Organization, the organization must be under the direction and control of OSU students, meet Oregon State University standards for risk management and:

- Complete recognition process on an annual basis that includes:
  a) Submit an annual Organization Information Form.
  b) Submit club constitution/governing documents and any revisions.
  c) Agree to comply with Standards of Conduct for Recognized Student Organizations and maintain accountability to the University for Institutional Policies and procedures.
  d) Complete Risk Assessment

- Maintain 100% OSU student membership and roster of currently active OSU student members through the online data system.

- Maintain a minimum of four (4) Oregon State student members.

- Maintain good standing with the University, all governing boards within the University to which the organization belongs and all chartering, sponsoring or governing organizations with whom the organization affiliates.

- Officers must annually complete University base-line training.

- Register all on-campus organization events through the online data system.

Non-Affiliated Student Organization (NSO)
A Non-Affiliated Student Organization is one that is not affiliated with the University in a formal way and has no formal benefit with the exception of a listing on the annual organization list. NSOs will be treated the same as any non-OSU organization or person(s) who seek to access University-controlled benefits and resources.

In order to be identified as a Non-Affiliated Student Organization, organizations must meet Oregon State University standards for risk management for all activity/events held on the Oregon State Campus and:

- Submit an annual Organization Information Form.
- Maintain a majority (fifty-one percent) of OSU Student members.
- Operate within established business practices for all on-campus activities.

**Student Organizations Community Standards**

As a member of any student organization at the University, you are expected to maintain alignment with the University Mission and exemplify the principles of honesty and integrity. As a member of the OSU community, you are expected to uphold University policies and procedures, always acting in good faith when conducting your organizational business. Further, you are expected not to misrepresent the mission, purpose or goals of your organization nor the influence (direction and control) by non-members on your organization or its activities. By upholding the OSU Student Conduct Regulations (OAR Division 15) and upholding all sponsorship agreements, you will further a positive reputation for your student organization, and student organizations in general, and continue to be recognized as a student organization in good standing with and of great value to Oregon State University.
Glossary

Campus Activity Advisor
- Faculty, staff or personnel responsible for maintaining relationship with a student organization that allows for education and development as well as administration of University policies, procedures and data collection.

Event
- Any activity undertaken in the name of a student organization, i.e.; meetings, performances, conference attendance, travel, retreat, sporting event, cultural nights, speakers, competitions, etc.
- An “Official” event is one that is representative of the student organization’s mission, registered through the online data system and approved by a Campus Activity Advisor.

Event Sponsorship Agreement
- An formal agreement between a Student Organization and a University Department for the purpose of recognizing an event that is in line with and compliments the Sponsoring Unit’s Mission. Sponsorship may entail access to University controlled resources specifically for the period of the event. This agreement does not indicate ongoing sponsorship of the VSO.

Member/Membership
- OSU students that hold voting rights and/or leadership positions.

Oregon State University Student
- An individual that is currently enrolled through any Oregon State University or degree partnership program and not employed by Oregon State in a position that is half-time equivalence (0.5 FTE) or higher. May also be referred to as “OSU Student.”

Participant Agreement?

Recognized Student Organization (RSO)
- A University Departmental Student Organization or a Voluntary Student Organization. A Non-Affiliated Student Organization is not a Recognized Student Organization.

Sponsorship Agreement
- An agreement between a Student Organization and a University Department for the purpose of establishing a formal relationship.

Sponsoring University Department
- An Academic, Student Affairs or Auxiliary unit of the Oregon State University through which a University Departmental Student Organization is sponsored. This is also the home unit of the DSO's official Campus Activity advisor. May also be referred to as “Sponsoring Unit.”

Student Event & Activities Center (SEAC)
- The department responsible for providing administrative oversight of student organization online processes and development of and access to baseline trainings for students and Campus Activities Advisors. Additionally, the SEAC is focused on creating visibility of and access to student involvement opportunities.

Student Organization

Appendix
Judicial Processes and Community Standards for Student Orgs
Sponsorship Agreement
Event Sponsorship Agreement
Facilities Policy Overview
Participant Agreement
Campus Activity Advisor Roles and Responsibilities