 **Office of Student Activities**

3500 John A. Merritt Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37209

Telephone 615.963.5250  Fax 615-963-2180

<http://www.tnstate.edu/campus_life/activities.aspx>

**Organization Recognition Policy**

**Types of Student Organizations**

Student organizations may be either organizations sponsored by the institution, such as student government associations, associated student body organizations, and professional and honor societies, or organizations officially registered by the institution. Organizations that may be officially registered on campus include the following: (a) honors and leadership organizations/recognition societies; (b) departmental organizations and professional fraternities and sororities; (c) social fraternities and sororities; and (d) special interest groups (political religious, athletic, etc.) Registration of a student organization by an institution shall neither constitute nor be construed as approval or endorsement by the institution of the purposes or objectives of the organization.

**General Policies on Student Organizations**

1. No student organization may carry on any activity on the campus of the institution unless the institution has officially registered the organization. The institution shall not be responsible for injuries or damages to persons or property resulting from the activities of student organizations or for any debts or liabilities incurred by such organizations.
2. No student organization or individual shall engage in or condone any form of hazing. Hazing shall include, but not be limited to, any action taken or a situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, or ridicule; any form of verbal or physical harassment or abuse; and participation in public stunts or morally degrading or humiliating behavior or games, whether on or off campus.
3. Excessive demands on a student’s time so as to interfere with academic performance are prohibited. Threatening in any manner or form for the purpose of cajoling individuals into secrecy in regard to breaches (planned, threatened, attempted, or perpetrated) of hazing restrictions also is prohibited. Hazing activities that are in violation of any other institution or school regulations such as the misuse of alcohol, drugs, school property, etc. are strictly forbidden.
4. Student organizations shall be responsible and liable for the conduct and actions of each member of the organization while acting in the capacity of a member or while attending or participating in any activity of the organization.
5. No person, group or organization may use the name of the institution in any manner, provided that registered student organizations may use the name of the institution following the name of the organization. No person, group, or organization may use the seal or any symbol of the institution without the prior written approval of the president of the institution or his/her designee.

**Criteria for Recognition of Organizations**

1. Any proposed student organization shall be open to all students of the institution who otherwise meet membership requirements. Membership in the organization shall be limited to currently enrolled students, provided that organizations may include faculty and staff of the institution and/or spouses of students, faculty, and staff and provided further that professional organizations may include members of the professional and business communities.
2. A proposed organization must represent the interests of the members, and the control of the organization must be within the local campus group. The organization must not have a knowing affiliation with an organization possessing illegal aims and goals, with a specific purpose to further those illegal aims and goals.
3. The proposed organization must agree to comply with all policies, regulations, and procedures established by the Tennessee Board of Regents and the institution and with all federal and state laws and regulations.
4. The proposed organization must not: 1) have illegal aims and goals, 2) propose activities that would violate regulations of the Tennessee Board of Regents or the institution or federal and state laws and regulations, 3) materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the institution, or 4) advocate incitement of imminent lawless action which is likely to produce such action.
5. The proposed organization must have a minimum of at least ten (10) charter members designated by the institution, and there must be a demonstration of continuous interest in the purposes of the organization sufficient to afford recognition on a long-term basis. In the event there is not sufficient interest to warrant long-term registration, an institution may grant temporary registration to an organization for a limited period of time.
6. New organizations may be denied registration when its purposes are within the scope of a currently registered organization. No organization may use the same name or a name that is misleading and similar to the name of a currently registered organization.
7. The organization must provide for the distribution of all funds and assets in the event of dissolution.