**Student Organization Recognition Process Policy**

**RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Student organizations must have open membership policies. Organizations that have a competitive and/or selective recruitment process and/or have an intake or probationary membership process, *must* ensure that they have the required levels of liability insurance, university approval and have satisfied the required compliance training, in order to participate in the recruitment cycle and/or to conduct a competitive and selective membership intake or recruitment process at Tennessee State University.

All applicants seeking membership into competitive selective organizations (ex: fraternities, sororities, honor societies, and similar organizations) must comply with the following (a) be current students in good academic, financial and disciplinary standing, (b) have the required minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5, and (c) are matriculated with a full-time status, having earned at least 30 credit hours (NPHC) and 15 credit hours (IFC, PFC, LBC, HSC) at Tennessee State University. **Students who have been issued disciplinary sanctions are ineligible for recruitment until all sanctions have been satisfied before they can apply for membership recruitment/intake.** Transfer students must have earned at least 15 credit hours at Tennessee State University and be classified as a sophomore or higher to participate in a membership intake/recruitment process. All students interested in joining fraternities, sororities, honor societies and similar organizations are required to attend all university sponsored trainings and educational workshops to be eligible and cleared for participation.

Students seeking leadership positions in student organizations must ensure that they satisfy the minimum cumulative GPA requirement of a 2.5 and are current students in good academic, financial, and disciplinary standing with the university. All student organizations are recognized as part of the University Association of Student Organizations (UASO) under the Office of Student Activities & Leadership. Students participating in *any* recognized student organization/club must maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average.

Additionally, organizations may have individual, national and/or council constitutional requirements to maintain recognition at the University. Please refer to the organization or council constitution in order to determine if there are additional requirements (for example: a higher GPA or credit hour requirement).

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Academic and professional organizations at Tennessee State University provide useful opportunities and leadership experiences for students in their respective fields. These special interest groups focus on programming and education within their respective disciplines. Departments, schools and colleges may have additional requirements for membership into these organizations.

CULTURAL/ETHNIC CLUBS and SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Cultural clubs and social organizations provide a social outlet for international students and bring U.S. and international students together. These organizations also present programs and seminars about the cultures, traditions and areas of need in the global community. These groups have open membership.

HONOR SOCIETIES

Honor societies have been established in each school and college to recognize and perpetuate excellence in various disciplines. Honor societies aim to promote scholarship and research, encourage a high standard of character, conduct practical application of and recognize high attainment and achievement in their related fields. These groups are typically aligned with a particular department, major and/or field of study and typically have very high GPA and other academic requirements for membership.

RELIGIOUS STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Religious student organizations and choirs involve themselves with civic work, services and social functions and emphasize religious concepts, ideals and beliefs held by each group. Religious student organizations work closely with the Office of Student Activities and Leadership and fall under the Religious Fellowship Council (RFC).

STATE AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

State and regional organizations encourage social cohesiveness among students from the same geographical location, and motivate students to get involved in campus activities, social action and community service programs.

Institutional ORGANIZATIONS

Institutional organizations encompass many areas of campus life, dedicated to service the entire university and are aligned with specific units and/or university functions. They serve a number of different purposes and appeal to a variety of interest. These groups are typically advised by or have a liaison in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership or a member of the Division of Student Affairs.

FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, and similar organizations

Fraternities and sororities are organizations with competitive selection procedures and intake/recruitment requirements for membership. They must have an on-campus advisor and a graduate advisor (or an advisor affiliated/appointed by the sectional/regional/national leadership or organization). These organizations fall under the Council of Fraternal Organizations (CFO).

NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATION PETITION & ORGANIZATION RE-ACTIVATION POLICY

Petitions to start a NEW ORGANIZATION are accepted twice yearly in the Spring semester **(beginning January 15 ending March 31)** andin the Fall semester **(beginning August 15 ending October 31)**.Recognized student organizations must have open membership policies unless they are constitutionally required to be a competitive selective organization AND have satisfied all university requirements to be recognized with such a designation. All petitions must be submitted to the Office of Student Activities & Leadership to initiate the recognition process.

Re-activation of an inactive recognized student organization occurs during the fall semester (ONLY) **beginning August 15 ending October 31.**

*DO NOT GET INVOLVED WITH UNRECOGNIZED GROUPS; THESE ARE OFTEN DANGEROUS AND UNSAFE ENVIRONMENTS FOR OUR STUDENTS.*

**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.