

# **INTERIM**

## **Registered Student Organization Policy**

The University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus  
Policy Adoption: September 2016

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Division of Student Affairs is responsible for enhancing students' academic success by developing student skills, cultivating diverse, campus life experiences and enriching the university community through programs and services.

Student Affairs supports and encourages students to gather and form community and collaboration through registered student organizations. Students who join student organizations feel more connected to their peers, the campus, and university as well as more knowledgeable of available campus resources. Therefore, members of student organizations are more likely to graduate and report higher levels of satisfaction with their college experience. Through being involved in student organizations, students receive a multitude of skills and experiences ranging from leadership opportunities to social, intellectual, and cultural development.

### **GOVERNING POLICIES & PRINCIPLES:**

All registered student organizations are responsible for understanding and adhering to the following:

- Local, state, and federal laws
- Policies and procedures of the University of Oklahoma (including, but not limited to:)
  - Alcohol Policy (including the Three Strikes Policy)
  - Equal Opportunity Statements, Policies, and Procedures
    - Exemptions may be requested on the basis of religion or qualified social organizations through the registration process.
  - Registered Student Organization Constitution
    - Student organizations will be provided their organization's constitution. Each organization may add their own specific structure and guiding principles to the provided constitution; however, the provided constitution's text may not be amended.
  - Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, and Harassment Policy
  - Student Government Association (SGA) Policies and Procedures
    - Funding Application Process
    - Space Allocation Application Process
  - Student Handbook Policies (including, but not limited to:)
    - Co-Curricular Involvement Policy
    - Facility Use Policy
    - Risk Management Policy
    - Student Activities Policy
    - Student Travel Policy
    - Tailgating Policy
    - Temporary Outdoor Signage Policy

- Student Rights and Responsibilities Code

Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the guidelines within, may result in rescinded recognition and/or Student Conduct charges.

## **UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:**

### *Presidential*

- Presidential programs are presidentially-created, supported and/or directed including:
  - Crimson Club
  - Henderson Scholars Program (HSP)
  - OU Cousins
  - President's Community Scholars (PCS)
  - President's Leadership Class (PLC)

### *Government*

- The official student government of the University of Oklahoma is the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association (SGA). It serves and advocates on behalf of the student body to improve the student experience.
- Student organizations may not apply to be a Government organization or a branch thereof. However, individuals may run for an elected position within the Student Government Association. Annual registration is not required.
- Student Government Association Branches:
  - Executive Branch: General Council (GC)
  - Judicial Branch: Superior Court
  - Legislative Branch: Graduate Student Senate (GSS), Student Bar Association (SBA), Undergraduate Student Congress (Congress)
  - Programming Branch: Campus Activities Council (CAC)

## **REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (RSO):**

All student organizations recognized through the registration process will be Registered Student Organizations (RSO) at The University of Oklahoma. A Registered Student Organization is a student-created organization based on interest and / or advocacy. Recognition of Registered Student Organizations shall not be construed as an agreement, support or approval by the university, but only as an acknowledgement of the rights of the organization to exist at the university, subject to the conditions enumerated herein.

### **RSO REQUIREMENTS & BENEFITS:**

Registered Student Organizations must be in good standing with the University of Oklahoma and allow all eligible OU students to join and participate in the student organization under the university's Non-Discrimination Policy (Exemptions may be requested on the basis of religion or qualified social organizations through the registration process).

- *Adviser:* RSOs must have a full-time university staff / faculty member as an adviser. (Part-time, PEAK, temporary, and Graduate Assistant employees may not advise student organizations.)
- *Student Members:* RSOs require at least ten student members.
  - Members must be active, currently-enrolled OU students.
    - Dually enrolled high school students are not eligible for membership.
    - To be eligible to serve in a leadership capacity, undergraduate students must be currently-enrolled and in good academic standing with their college during their appointment or election.
    - To be eligible to serve in a leadership capacity, graduate students must be currently-enrolled and in good academic standing with their college during their appointment or election.
    - All students holding leadership positions must have the required enrollment statuses at the campus where the organization is registered.
- *Registration:* Each RSO must re-register annually.
- *Benefits:* Being recognized as an RSO allows students to apply for the following benefits:
  - SGA Student Activity Fee Funds
  - Facility Use / Campus Reservations
  - SGA Office / Storage Space
  - OrgSync Portal
- *Prohibited:*
  - “Umbrella Organizations”: No organization may serve as an “umbrella” organization and / or receive funding on behalf of another organization.
  - Discrimination: All RSOs must adhere to the university’s Non Discrimination Policy unless the appropriate exemption has been granted.

## RSO CATEGORIES

- *Interest (ISO)*
  - Purpose:  
An RSO is a student-created organization based on interest and / or advocacy. The majority of Registered Student Organizations are Interest Student Organizations.
  - Leadership:  
Leadership for the student organization may be elected, selected or appointed at the discretion of the organization.
  - Insurance:  
For organization events requiring insurance, it is the responsibility of the organization to secure their own policy. More information regarding insurance may be found on the Risk Management website under “Insurance Programs.”

- Trademarks:  
It is prohibited to use OU trademarks within ISO names.
- *Competitive Club (CCSO)*
  - An RSO may be eligible to become a Competitive Club RSO if the student organization meets the following criteria.
  - Purpose:
    - is involved in regular participation in official competitions, outside the University of Oklahoma, for its specific organizational purpose;
    - has a purpose and / or function that does not duplicate or involve a comparable activity / sport of another Competitive Club Student Organization or Sport Club Student Organization;
    - allows all levels of ability to join and participate in the club, and
    - posts all events / competitions to the OrgSync public calendar.
  - Adviser:
    - has a full-time university staff / faculty adviser whose employment directly relates to the mission / purpose of the organization, is in the specific administrative department or academic unit for which the organization exists, and / or is assigned to the RSO as part of (not less than 0.2 FTE) their job duties, and
    - acknowledges it may not dismiss or release the CCSO approved adviser(s) without consent from Student Life, and where applicable, if a new adviser is obtained after permission is granted, Student Life must approve the new CCSO adviser prior to any commitments being made by the CCSO.
  - Leadership:
    - elects, selects or appoints club leadership at the discretion of the organization and adviser.
  - Financial Support:
    - is supported / funded in whole, or significant part, by an administrative department or academic unit.
  - Insurance:
    - secures insurance through carriers such as the TULIP program, for their members and events (more information regarding insurance may be found on the Risk Management website under “Insurance Programs”) or through the administrative department or academic unit;
    - requires the organization and members to abide by the Risk Management Policy, and ensures the appropriate forms are signed and maintained by the faculty / staff adviser;

- requires a university staff / faculty member to be present at practices and competitions, and
    - operates in a safe manner within the standard rules and practices of its competition.
  - Trademarks:
    - is known / will be known as the “OU [ENTER COMPETITION PURPOSE] Club” (no other name variations or trademarks will be accepted), and
    - may further use the following trademarks upon approval through OrgSync and the OU Licensing and Trademark Office approval process; however, the use of accessible trademarks does not suggest the university endorses any particular point of view or speaker: (Interlocking) *OU*, *Boomer Sooner*, *Oklahoma*, *Sooner(s)*, and *(The) University of Oklahoma*.
- *Sport Club (SCSO)*
  - An RSO may be eligible to become a Sport Club RSO if the student organization meets the following criteria and is also approved through the OU Fitness + Recreation (Fit+Rec) Sport Club Council process. Approved sport clubs are listed on the Fit+Rec website.
  - Purpose
    - is involved in regular participation in intercollegiate competitions for a specific sport requiring a reasonable degree of physical skill and / or exertion;
    - has a primary mission of sports;
    - has a purpose and / or function that does not duplicate or involve a comparable activity / sport of another Sport Club Student Organization or Competitive Club Student Organization;
    - allows all levels of ability to join and participate in the club;
    - each member of the organization possess affiliation, and is in good standing, with the sport’s national organization (if affiliation with the national organization is prohibited until registered with the university, Sport Club status may be granted on a contingent basis), and
    - posts all events and tryouts (if applicable) to the OrgSync public calendar (Sport Club calendars, including events, games and travel, must be submitted to Fit+Rec within the first three weeks of each semester or within the week following approval of Sport Club status).
  - Adviser
    - has a full-time university staff / faculty adviser(s) (and coach) who has attended the Fit+Rec Sport Club Council Orientation meeting, met with, and been approved by Fit+Rec, and
    - acknowledges it may not dismiss or release the SCSO approved adviser(s) without consent from Fit+Rec, and where applicable, if a new adviser or

coach is obtained after Sport Club Council membership is granted, Fit+Rec must approve the new SCSO adviser or coach prior to any commitments being made by the SCSO.

- Leadership
  - elects, selects or appoints club leadership at the discretion of the organization, adviser, and coach.
- Insurance
  - secures insurance through their national affiliate, or other carriers such as the TULIP program, for their members and events (more information regarding insurance may be found on the Risk Management website under “Insurance Programs”);
  - requires the organization and members to abide by the Risk Management Policy, and ensures the appropriate forms are signed and maintained by the faculty / staff adviser (Typical Sport Club Council members’ activities, such as practice and tournaments, are considered “Hazard Class III” as referred to in the Risk Management Policy referenced above);
  - practices and / or competitions have present at least one member with current CPR certification (water Sport Clubs must also have present at least one member with current and appropriate American Red Cross, YMCA, or comparable lifeguard certification), and it is highly recommended the adviser(s), coach(es), and club leadership be certified in CPR (and / or for water Sport Clubs, appropriate lifeguard training), and
  - operates in a safe manner within the standard rules and practices of its sport.
- Trademarks
  - is known / will be known as the “OU [ENTER SPORT NAME] Club” (no other name variations or trademarks will be accepted);
  - may not display sponsorships on the same surface as an OU trademark (as determined by the OU Licensing and Trademark Office), and
  - may further use the following trademarks upon approval through OrgSync and the OU Licensing and Trademark Office approval process; however, the use of accessible trademarks does not suggest the university endorses any particular point of view, action, or speaker:  
(Interlocking) *OU*, *Boomer Sooner*, *Oklahoma*, *Sooner(s)*, and *(The) University of Oklahoma*.
- *Departmental (DSO)*
  - An RSO may be eligible to become a Departmental RSO if the student organization meets the following criteria.
  - Purpose:

- exists for the benefit of the students involved in an academic unit and / or by promoting its awareness; or, where funded by an administrative department, the RSO exists to benefit students in the university community through the programs and services of that administrative department, and
  - posts all events and (open) meetings to the OrgSync public calendar.
- Adviser:
  - is directed and advised by a full-time university staff member whose employment directly relates to the mission / purpose of the organization, is in the specific administrative department or academic unit for which the organization exists, and has advisory duties assigned to the RSO as part of (not less than 0.2 FTE) their job duties.
- Leadership:
  - elects their leadership through an SGA-approved election (appointing or selecting leadership is prohibited).
- Financial Support:
  - is supported / funded in whole, or significant part, by an administrative department or academic unit.
- Insurance
  - secures insurance through carriers such as the TULIP program, for their members and events (more information regarding insurance may be found on the Risk Management website under “Insurance Programs”) or through the administrative department or academic unit;
- Trademarks
  - may further use the following trademarks within its organization name upon approval through OrgSync and the OU Licensing and Trademark Office; however, the use of accessible trademarks does not suggest the university endorses any particular point of view or speaker:  
 (Interlocking) *OU*, *Boomer Sooner*, *Oklahoma*, *Sooner(s)*, *(The) University of Oklahoma*, and campus imagery specific to the relevant department or academic unit.