

General Policies

for

Student Organizations at East Tennessee State University

ETSU Student Organization Resource Center & the Division of Student Affairs

- A. The purpose of these provisions is to create a set of uniform expectations for all student organizations registered at ETSU regarding social behavior on or off campus. In this context, student organization activities should be conducted with regard to the rights and safety of other members of the community. The role of student organizations within ETSU's academic community should be to provide students an opportunity to meet with their peers and faculty in a relaxed setting. This interaction should serve to enhance the campus learning environment by providing students an opportunity to develop leadership and social skills and to apply classroom work to life experiences.
- B. All disciplinary rules and regulations concerning individual students shall apply to student organizations and are incorporated by reference. This shall include compliance with all local, state or federal laws.
- C. The university shall not be responsible for injuries or damages to persons or property resulting from the activities of student organizations, or for any debts or disabilities of such organizations.
- D. Student organizations are vicariously liable for the conduct and action of each member and invited guest of the organization while acting in the capacity of a member or while attending or participating in any activity of the organization.
- E. All student organizations shall be registered with the university prior to engaging in any organizational activity. (See TBR Policy 3:01:01:00) In addition, Greek letter social organizations are required to be members of one of the Greek governing councils on campus. Finally, in order to be in good standing with the University, registered student organizations must attend one orientation session hosted by the Student Organization Resource Center annually and complete an end-of-year report each spring. With registration and completion of these requirements, organizations become eligible for a number of benefits offered by the Student Organization Resource Center.
- F. Definitions
 - 1. A **"student organizational function"** is any meeting, event, banquet or program for social, educational, recreational, cultural or spiritual purpose(s) planned and/or attended by members and/or their invited guests.
 - 2. An **"open" activity** is a function generally accessible to persons in the campus or community at large without regard to affiliation or association with the sponsoring organization.
 - 3. An **"invited guest"** is one who has received an invitation to attend a function from an identifiable member of the sponsoring organization. An announcement of general circulation to the campus or community at-large is not considered to be an invitation.
- G. Student Organizational Functions
 - 1. All student organizational functions involving the serving or consumption of alcohol shall be registered with the Student Organization Resource Center at least seven (7) business days prior to the date of the function. (See Procedures for Student Organization Events with alcohol-available in the Student Organization Resource Center.) When functions are to take place in university-owned, leased or controlled property, policies concerning use of that property should be consulted and must be complied with.

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2. Student organization functions where alcohol will be present are limited to houses owned by social fraternities recognized by ETSU and commercial establishments owned by licensed and insured third-party vendors. Third party vendor locations are subject to administrative approval.
 3. Possession, sale, use and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages during a student organizational function must be in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and university rules. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring student organization to ensure that individuals under 21 years of age do not consume alcoholic beverages
 4. Alcoholic beverages are permitted at functions only on a “bring your own can” basis or through a contract with a licensed server at a commercial establishment, and shall not be made available on a self-serve basis. That is, students attending functions shall not have open and unlimited access to alcoholic beverages.
 5. Open parties where alcohol is present are prohibited.
 6. Possession, sale, use and/or consumption of any illegal drug or controlled substances at any student organizational function is prohibited.
 7. Any student organizational function at which alcohol is present must have a minimum of two (2) bonded security guards present at the site of the function.
 8. On an annual basis by August 1st, all social fraternities with houses are required to submit a current report from the fire marshal approving the house for occupancy and specifying the capacity limits of the facility, including the capacity limits of public areas. The report must be submitted in writing to the Coordinator of Greek Life. Attendance at student organization functions must be restricted to the facility’s public areas. The capacity limits of the public areas are determined by the fire marshal. In houses of social fraternities recognized by ETSU, attendance at student organization functions with alcohol will not exceed two (2) invited guests for each active organization member, regardless of the capacity of the facility.
- H. Complaints about a student organization shall be brought to the attention of the Director of Student Activities. Mediation among parties may result or disciplinary charges may be referred to the ETSU Judicial System for hearing.
- I. Student Organization Sanctions. Any registered student organization may be subject to the following disciplinary sanctions as listed here and defined in Section 0240-3-2-.04 Disciplinary Sanctions: warning, reprimand, restitution, community service, constructive or educational project, restriction, probation, suspension of registration, withdrawal of registration. These sanctions may be imposed either singly or in combination, and such action will be taken only pursuant to disciplinary procedures established by these rules.