

03-05-00 Student Organizations Policy

PURPOSE

This policy provides standards for the registration and conduct of student organizations at Nashville State Community College (Nashville State), which are consistent with Tennessee Board of Regents Rules, chapter 0240-2-4.

TYPES OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- A. Student organizations may be either organizations sponsored by Nashville State, such as student government associations, associated student body organizations, professional and honor societies, or organizations officially registered by Nashville State. Organizations which may be registered to operate include the following: honors and leadership organizations and recognition societies; departmental organizations and professional fraternities and sororities;
- B. and special interest groups (political, religious, athletic, etc.). Registration of a student organization by Nashville State shall neither constitute nor be construed as approval or endorsement by Nashville State of the purposes or objectives of the organization.

POLICY

I. Policy Statement

- A. No student organization may carry on any activity on any campus unless the organization has been officially registered by Nashville State.
- B. Nashville State 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.
- C. No student organization shall deny membership to any person on the basis of age, race, sex, religion, handicap or national origin, subject to the following exceptions:
 - 1. Nashville State shall not grant recognition to any student organization that will discriminate against or deny to a student organization access to programs, funding, or facilities otherwise available to another student organization on the basis of:
 - a. The religious content of the organization's speech, including, but not limited to, worship; or
 - b. The organization's exercise of its rights pursuant to this policy.

2. A religious student organization may determine that the organization's religious mission requires that only those professing the faith of the group and comporting themselves in conformity with it qualify to serve as members or leaders.
- D. No student organization or individual shall engage in or condone any form of hazing as defined by Nashville State Student Conduct Policy: 03-04-00, T.C.A. § 49-7-123(a)(1), and TBR Rule 0240-02-03-.01: Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions.
- E. Student organizations shall be responsible for the conduct and actions of one or more members of the organization in accordance with the criteria set forth in Nashville State Student Conduct Policy: 03-04-00 and TBR Rule 0240-02-03-.01: Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions.
- F. No person, group or organization may use the name of Nashville State in any manner. A registered organization may use the name Nashville State following the name of the organization. No person, group or organization may use the seal or any symbol of Nashville State without the prior written approval of the president or their designee.
- G. Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to infringe on the rights of students and student organizations protected by the constitutions of the State of Tennessee and the United States, or other state or federal law.

II. Criteria for Registration of Organizations

- A. Any proposed student organization shall be open to all students of Nashville State who meet membership requirements. Membership in the organization shall be limited to currently enrolled students; provided that organizations may include faculty and staff of Nashville State, and/or spouses of students, faculty and staff; and provided further that professional organizations may include members of the professional and business communities as members.
- B. A proposed organization must represent the interests of the members, and the control of the organization must be within the local college group.
- C. 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.
- D. The proposed organization must agree to comply with all policies, rules and procedures established by the Tennessee Board of Regents and Nashville State, and with all federal and state laws and regulations.
- E. The proposed organization must not:
 1. Have illegal aims and goals;

2. Propose activities which would violate rules of the Tennessee Board of Regents or Nashville State, or federal or state laws and regulations, or materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of Nashville State;
 3. Advocate incitement of imminent lawless action which is likely to produce such action.
- F. The proposed organization must have the minimum number of charter members designated by Nashville State, and there must be a demonstration of continuous interest in the purposes of the organization sufficient to afford registration on a long-term basis. In the event there is not sufficient interest to warrant long-term registration, Nashville State may grant temporary registration to an organization for a limited period of time.
- G. New organizations may be denied registration where the purposes are within the scope of a currently registered organization. No organization may use the same name, or a name which is misleading and similar to the name, of a currently registered organization.
- H. The organization must provide for the distribution of all funds and assets in the event of dissolution.

III. Procedure for Registration of Organizations

- A. In order to become officially registered as a student organization, a group must meet the criteria set forth in this policy and must provide to Nashville State a minimum of the following:
1. An application or request to form the organization on the form designated by Nashville State;
 2. The proposed constitution and bylaws of the organization, which must clearly contain the following: the name, purpose, proposed activities, and rules of membership of the organization, the officers, their terms and methods of selection, the proposed nature and frequency of meetings and activities, and the financial plans of the organization, including any proposed fees, dues and assessments;
 3. The names and signatures of the charter members of the organization;
 4. The names of the faculty advisor and/or the administrative officers of Nashville State who will sponsor the organization;
 5. A statement of assurance of compliance by the organization that it will comply with all rules and regulations, policies and procedures of the Tennessee Board of Regents and Nashville State and with all federal and state laws and regulations.
- B. The designated number of copies of the foregoing documents and information must be submitted to the office of student life of Nashville State authorized to review and

make recommendations concerning proposed organizations. Recommendations regarding registration of a proposed organization must be forwarded by the office of student life to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; and registration by the vice president or designee is necessary before the organization can be officially registered.

- C. Any official or body responsible for reviewing or registering proposed organizations may require the sponsors to clarify any materials or information provided in the registration process, to resubmit the application or request with non-conforming materials or provisions deleted, or to appear at a hearing for the purpose of providing additional information and testimony concerning the purposes, aims or proposed activities of the organization.

IV. Nature and Conditions of Registration

- A. Registration of a student organization for other than a temporary period will be on an annual basis only, effective until the beginning of the next fall term of Nashville State and shall be subject to annual renewal by Nashville State for each ensuing year.
- B. Annual renewal of registration of an organization shall be dependent upon the organization's demonstration of compliance with the following:
 - 1. It must adhere to the purposes, aims and activities as stated in the approved constitution and bylaws;
 - 2. It must continue to meet all of the requirements for initial registration;
 - 3. It must have remained in compliance with all rules and regulations of Nashville State and all federal and state laws;
 - 4. It must submit all changes in the constitution and bylaws to Nashville State for approval;
 - 5. It must maintain a current list of officers, faculty advisers and sponsors on file with Nashville State; and
 - 6. It must have submitted all required financial and other reports to Nashville State.

V. Reports

- A. Nashville State may require any or all organizations to submit an annual report concerning its programs and activities during the preceding year. If required, this report shall be reviewed by the designated bodies or officials of Nashville State and shall be a requirement for renewal of registration.
- B. Nashville State may require any and all organizations to submit an annual financial report reflecting all revenues received and disbursed by the organization, and/or an interim financial report or such a report concerning any fund-raising activity of the

organization. If required, this report shall be a requirement for renewal of registration.

VI. Probation, Suspension and Withdrawal of Registration

- A. An organization may be placed on probation, be suspended, or registration may be withdrawn by the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management of Nashville State for any of the following reasons:
 - 1. The organization fails to maintain compliance with the initial requirements for registration;
 - 2. The organization ceases to operate as an active organization;
 - 3. The organization requests withdrawal of registration;
 - 4. The organization operates or engages in any activity in violation of rules and regulations of Nashville State, or federal or state laws; or
 - 5. The organization fails to submit any required reports.
- B. An organization which is placed on probation may continue to hold meetings but may not sponsor any activity or program. An organization which is placed under suspension may not engage in or sponsor any activity or program and may not hold meetings. Where registration of an organization is withdrawn, it shall cease to exist as an organization.
- C. Prior to an organization being placed on probation or suspension, or having its registration withdrawn, the organization shall be afforded the opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the Nashville State Student Conduct policy 03-04-00.

VII. Officers

- A. No student who is under suspension from Nashville State shall be eligible to become, or maintain the status of, an officer of an organization.

VIII. Fiscal Procedures

- A. Each organization shall maintain a sound financial system related to the collection and disbursement of revenues in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. An organization may be subject to audit by representatives of Nashville State at any time, and appropriate financial records shall be maintained for the purposes of audit.
- B. Each organization shall designate an officer of the organization who is responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds and the maintenance of books and records.

- C. All deposits and disbursements by the organization must be made through an account maintained by the college. No student organization may have any other type of bank account.

IX. Programs and Activities

- A. The use of any campus property or buildings by an organization shall be subject to the rules and regulations of Nashville State concerning use of property and facilities.
- B. Except for routine meetings of the organization, no on-campus program or activity shall be engaged in unless approved by the designated official(s) of Nashville State, and prior approval is required for off-campus programs and activities.
- C. Any fund-raising activity on campus shall be for the benefit of the organization as a whole or a charity, and no funds shall be distributed to the officers or members of an organization for personal profit or gain.
- D. An organization may invite guest speakers to the campus consistent with the Campus Free Speech Protection Act, T.C.A. § 49-7-2401, the Higher Education Freedom of Expression and Transparency Act, T.C.A. § 49-7-1907, Nashville State Policy 03-10-00 Freedom of Speech and Expression, and requirements regarding the use of campus facilities.

SOURCES

- [T.C.A. §49-8-203](#). Administrative History: Repeal of all rules by Public Chapter 261; effective July 1, 1983. New rule filed April 28, 1983; effective July 13, 1983. Amendment filed August 28, 1984; effective November 13, 1984. Amendment filed August 11, 2004; effective December 29, 2004.

Approved by NSCC President's Cabinet 2/26/23