

STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Enabling Language and Philosophy

The Frostburg State University acknowledges that student organizations comprise an integral part of the campus community. Board of Regents Policy on Student Affairs (110.0 V-1.00) states that the “President shall establish rules for the administration of student affairs, including but not limited to residence life, student discipline and the handling of student grievances at the institution. Such rules shall serve to further educational and cultural objectives through student government and activities, student organizations, including fraternities and sororities, may be established at each institution subject to applicable policies of the Regents and of the institution.”

The President has the authority to appoint a designee to carry out those responsibilities. The President at Frostburg State has long established and assigned those inherent duties to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the appropriate staff.

Recognizing that membership in a student organization can be of significant educational value, the University supports the concept that membership offers a distinctive alternative to the classroom setting for students. All student organizations share responsibility with the University for facilitating the learning process for all students and for cultivating an environment which enriches their educational experiences. The purpose of this document is to identify and define the areas of mutual interest and reciprocal support existing between the University and student organizations.

The University

The Frostburg State University accepts willingly that all-student organizations should be dedicated to excellence at Frostburg State University. All organizations at Frostburg State University should be dedicated to supporting the overall mission of the University. As the foundation of Student Affairs at FSU, student organizations are created to assist with the overall concepts of educating the whole individual necessitates that student organizations create opportunities for the integration of formal and informal student learning experiences.

To this end, the University is dedicated to improving the quality of student life and student leadership on campus by supporting the independent organizations that have the privilege of support of the university and also maintain the freedom to organize under the guidelines established for all independent groups affiliated with the University. By being receptive to individual student and collective organizational needs, staff help to foster student growth and involvement throughout the campus, local and regional community.

Student Organizations

Student organizations at the Frostburg State University develop and maintain membership programs which complement and strengthen the mission of the University. They assist new students in their orientation to the demands of higher education and encourage their membership to maintain high academic standards thereby aiding in the retention of students.

Student organizations stimulate participation in college programs and develop close cooperation between all students and college officials, faculty, and other student organizations. Through intentional efforts, staff at Frostburg State University assist in guiding students and providing training for undergraduates in leadership responsibilities and provide a living-learning experience in a democracy. Student organizations also keep the lines of communication open between undergraduates and other outside affiliated and unaffiliated groups.

Student organizations sponsor community service projects that contribute to positive community relations for both the organizations and the University. Student organizations add and promote diversity and inclusion efforts for a variety of students who are in the process of finding out more about who they are as they transition from high school to post graduate life. Student organizations provide a helping hand of friendship for the achievement of purposeful living both in the college community and in the years to follow.

Conditions of Recognition

Recognition is the formal process by which the Frostburg State University through its Department of Student Life agrees that a student organization may function on the campus, to be considered affiliated with the University. For the purposes of recognition, the term student organization refers to organizations whose membership is totally made up of registered and enrolled students at Frostburg State University that are not on academic probation and otherwise restricted from participation because of behavioral matters. The student organization meets which meet these following characteristics:

- They have organizational goals which are articulated in their organizing documents and approved constitution and or by-laws
- They are entitled to be selective within the University nondiscrimination, policies (except for fraternities and sororities which are entitled to single sex membership under the provision of Section 86.14 of the regulations promulgated under Title IX of the U.S. Education Act Amendments of 1972.)

For a student organization to be granted full recognition by the Frostburg State University, the organization must:

- Register as a student organization.

- Have their constitution approved by the Student Government Association and reviewed and authorized by the Office of Student Life
- Must maintain an active membership of established by the SGA and the Office of Student Involvement and Engagement
- All members must be registered degree seeking students who are not on academic or disciplinary probation.
- All student organizations must have a university advisor that is a full time member of the Frostburg State University faculty, staff, or administration.

Support of Institution

Student Organizations are an integral part of the total student life program at the Frostburg State University and, therefore, are afforded certain privileges. A University affiliated student organization is eligible to:

- Receive the assistance of the Division of Student Affairs in the normal business activities and operations of the organization.
- Use University facilities, equipment, and services according to prescribed policies and procedures.
- Receive professional advising and other support services from the Department of Student Life and other University sources.
- Collect dues, sponsor fund-raising events, and solicit funds according to University policy'.
- Receive awards and honors presented to University organizations and members.
- Be listed in University/student publications.
- Sponsor program activities consistent with the purpose of the organization.
- Participate in all intramural, artistic, social, and other group activities; or programs operated by or under the auspices of the Frostburg State University
- Be assisted by the University staff in communicating with off campus organizations, agencies and groups.
- Have access to University grade information providing scholarship data for the group. (Individual grade information can only be provided with authorization from the student).
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Expectations of Student Organizations

Because membership and participation in Student organizations at the University is a privilege, the following expectations for student organizations have been set forth:

- Adhere to the tenets of this document.
- Abide by all appropriate rules/regulations of the University and all local, state, and federal laws and statutes.
- Assist in the University's efforts with recruitment, retention, and responsiveness to student needs.

- Provide feedback to the administration on campus climate and policy/procedure development.
- Respect all members of the campus community.
- Respect other student organizations, their members, and their property.
- Participate in campus activities and contribute to campus life by sponsoring or co-sponsoring public service and/or campus improvement projects, as well as social programs.
- Accept collective responsibility for the behavior of members when in there on or off campus residential facilities, sponsored spaces off campus, or when acting as a group or organization off campus.
- Provide programs in leadership development and other areas critical to member development.
- Create and maintain an atmosphere conducive to academic achievement.
- Participate in an educational program to be developed and implemented by the Office of Student Life
- Maintain organizational viability through sound financial management

Academic Standards

Because one of the main concerns of the University must be the promotion of academic success of its students {members}, the following guidelines related to academics are established:

- Each student organization is expected to maintain the minimum grade point standard for individuals set forth by the Office of Student Life.
- In accordance with stated University policy, a student who is subject to dismissal from the University but who is permitted to continue on scholastic probation may not hold elected or appointed office in any organization during the time of this probation.

Conduct Standards

In order to promote a positive curricular and co-curricular environment, certain guidelines which apply to all student organizations, are established in the area of student conduct.

- It is expected that all student organizations will demonstrate compliance with federal, state, and local regulations.
- All individuals and organizations are expected to comply with University rules and procedures and abide by the University Student Conduct Code.
- Adjudication of violations of the Student Conduct Code by individuals or organizations will be according to those policies, procedures and sanctions set forth in the Student Conduct Code.
- All student organizations are expected to have:
 - a. Non-Discrimination statements.
 - b. Hazing prohibition statements.

- c. Alcohol and drug abuse statements.
- d. Sexual harassment statements.
- e. Minimum academic standards.
- f. Internal disciplinary procedures.

Amendments or Alterations

Amendments to the constitutions of the recognized student organizations at Frostburg State must be approved by the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee. The review is undertaken for legal sufficiency and adherence to University policies and procedures.