

**RULES  
OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA**

**CHAPTER 1720-2-4  
REGISTRATION OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

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**1720-2-4-.01 INTRODUCTION.**

- (1) The University has as its primary purpose the search for truth, and the chief limits on student activities are the requirements of the University as a corporate entity with legal obligations in the state. The University has a positive responsibility to encourage students to develop toward full civic and social participation. Students should have the opportunity to participate in associations which promote political literacy, and interest in public affairs. They should also have the opportunity to hear speakers - whether from the faculty, the student body, or from outside the University - who represent diverse views. The University encourages the free exchange and discussion of ideas as part of its responsibility in preparing its students. In doing so it neither endorses nor disclaims any particular idea, system of thought, or point of view.
- (2) When groups of students wish to have a continuous association, intended to last beyond the term of those immediately involved, it is appropriate that they be required to qualify for registration by the University. All registered associations should be accorded the same privileges and be bound by the same obligation. University registration does not mean endorsement of the purpose or activities of any association by the faculty or administration. It means only that the association is accepted as meeting the minimum requirements set for all student associations.
- (3) National social fraternities and sororities have their own governing and advisory organizations. Acceptance of these organizations as responsible agencies, through which the University may deal with their affiliates on the campus, is a part of continuing University recognition. Such organizations, therefore, are not required to follow the specific provisions herein for faculty advisers and for fund control.

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, Chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 64. Administrative History:* Original rule filed September 15, 1976; effective October 15, 1976. Amendment and new rule filed December 5, 1979; effective February 12, 1980. Repeal and new rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986.

**1720-2-4-.02 UNIVERSITY REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.**

- (1) To apply, a student group should submit three copies of its constitution to the Office of the Dean of Students. One copy will be sent to the Student Government Association (SGA) who will schedule hearings with the SGA Procedures Committee and the Senate.
- (2) The SGA will make a recommendation to the Dean of Students.

(Rule 1720-2-4-.02, continued)

- (3) The Dean of Students will notify the applying organization if it is to be officially registered. Until the group receives official registration in writing, it will not be permitted to use University facilities or receive other benefits reserved for student organizations.

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, Chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 64. Administrative History:* Original rule filed September 15, 1976; effective October 15, 1976. Amendment and new rule filed December 5, 1979; effective February 12, 1980. Amendment filed August 27, 1981; effective November 30, 1981. Amendment filed July 29, 1983; effective October, 1983. Repeal and new rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986.

### **1720-2-4-.03 REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.**

- (1) Constitution.
  - (a) Any group petitioning for registration as a student organization must present a constitution following a standard form to facilitate reference. Social fraternities and sororities may be required to submit the equivalent national affiliation or other pertinent information. The constitution must contain the following information:
    1. The name of the organization.
    2. A statement of purpose for the organization.
    3. Membership eligibility requirements.
    4. A listing of officers by title, and any special functions of the offices.
    5. A statement of the terms of the officers, and the time and method of election.
    6. Frequency of meetings.
    7. A statement of any membership dues, including amount and frequency of payment and provisions for disposition of any funds in the event of dissolution of the organization.
    8. Provisions for faculty advisers.
    9. Any other provisions relating to the purpose and function of the particular organizations.
  - (b) Purpose. The Statement of Purpose shall be acceptable:
    1. If it is reasonably clear and specific as to the aims and activities of the organization.
    2. If the stated aims and activities of the organizations are compatible with academic function of the University, with the maintenance of order and propriety on the campus, and with the requirements of the University as a corporated entity, with legal obligations.
  - (c) Size and Continuity. No maximum or minimum number of members shall be required for registration. The group petitioning, however, and anticipated membership as represented by the eligibility requirements, should be sufficient to give reasonable prospects of continuity for the organizations, and ability to carry out the purposes stated in the constitution.

(Rule 1720-2-4-.03, continued)

- (d) Membership. Eligibility and Records.
  - 1. Membership in registered student organizations shall be limited to students of the University, except where membership of faculty or other University staff is consistent with the structure and purposes stated in the constitution. Accurate membership records must be maintained and available to the faculty adviser.
  - 2. To be eligible to serve as an officer in a registered student organization, a student must not be on disciplinary or academic probation. To be eligible to serve as an officer in the Student Government Association, including both executive officers and senator, and in a registered student organization, the names of the new officers must be transmitted to the Office of the Dean of Students within three days.
- (e) Faculty Advisers. Eligibility and Rule. All student organizations, except national social fraternities and sororities (which shall have alumni advisers) and religious center operating under church auspices, must have one or more qualified faculty advisers. When the membership exceeds fifty, organizations are urged to obtain an additional faculty adviser.
  - 1. Any faculty member at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga may serve as faculty adviser to a student organization. With the sanction of the Office of the Dean of Students nonteaching members of the University Staff whose positions are comparable to full-time faculty members may also serve. The Office of the Dean of Students must be notified of any change in faculty advisers.
  - 2. A faculty member who agrees to the request of a student organization to serve as its faculty adviser accepts thereby responsibility for encouraging the organization in its purposes and activities, within the limits of University policy. Faculty and alumni advisers are responsible for being familiar with:
    - (i) This policy, and other University regulations pertaining to student organizations and speakers.
    - (ii) The constitution and purposes of the student organization they are advising.
    - (iii) The activities and projects of their organizations.
- (f) Review and Approval.
  - 1. Any change or amendment effecting the nature of the organization as originally approved must be brought to the attention of the Dean of Students and receive formal approval through the same procedure as any original registration process.

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, Chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 64. Administrative History:* Original rule filed September 15, 1976; effective October 15, 1976. Amendment and new rule filed December 5, 1979; effective February 12, 1980. Amendment filed July 29, 1983; effective October 14, 1983. Repeal and new rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. Amendment filed August 19, 1994; effective December 29, 1994.

**1720-2-4-.04 HAZING.**

- (1) Student organizations are prohibited from engaging in hazing activities.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-7-123. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 18, 1996; effective October 28, 1996.

**1720-2-4-.05 AFFILIATION.**

- (1) Registered student organizations may be affiliated with organizations of the campus, where such affiliation is:
  - (a) Clearly indicated, either by the title of the organization or its constitution at the time of registration, or by specific statements in connection with any activities growing out of a later affiliation.
  - (b) Consistent with the purpose set forth in the constitution of the organization, and with the provisions of this document governing student association on the campus.
  - (c) Not such as to change significantly the nature of the organization as an association of the students, with primary interests on the campus. University facilities may be reserved for organizational and ad hoc meetings in keeping with the principles of this policy and with University regulations. Responsibility shall be fixed on the individual or individuals making the request. Groups which have not requested registrations within a reasonable period of activity (normally a period of three months or a series of three meetings necessitating requests for University facilities) may be denied any of the privileges accorded to registered student organizations. All temporary groups are expected to follow the requirements of this policy for activities on campus, with regard to use of facilities, and the posting and distribution of printed materials.

**Authority:** Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, Chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 64. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed September 15, 1976; effective October 15, 1976. Amendment and new rule filed December 5, 1979; effective February 12, 1980. Repeal and new rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. Amendment filed August 31, 1995; effective December 30, 1995. (Formerly 1720-2-4-.04)

**1720-2-4-.06 SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION THROUGH INACTIVITY.**

- (1) Registration may be suspended by the Office of the Dean of Students.
  - (a) When election of officers as specified in the constitution is passed twice without any action having been reported to the Office of the Dean of Students; or
  - (b) When the organization does not show a reasonable amount of activity in promoting the ends and purposes specified in its constitutions, as evidenced by membership meetings and other activities. Registered student organizations are expected to provide a brief report on their year's activity upon request of the Dean of Students.
- (2) An organization suspended through inactivity may be reactivated by application to the Office of the Dean of Students by a group reaffirming its existing constitution and showing reasonable prospects or organizational continuity. Registration shall be withdrawn from any organization suspended as inactive for four years.

(Rule 1720-2-4-.06, continued)

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, Chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 64. Administrative History:* Original rule filed September 15, 1976; effective October 15, 1976. Amendment and new rule filed December 5, 1979; effective February 12, 1980. Amendment filed July 29, 1983; effective October 14, 1983. Repeal and new rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (Formerly 1720-2-4-.05)

#### **1720-2-4-.07 SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION FOR CAUSE.**

- (1) Registered student organizations are expected to conduct their activities in accordance with their constitutions and rules of the University. Any organization which violates University rules shall be warned by the Office of the Dean of Students. If repeated or flagrant violations occur registration of the organization may be suspended by the Dean of Students. A suspended organization may not hold meetings on the campus, or otherwise request the privileges of a registered organization.
- (2) Registration may be restored to a suspended organization by action of the Office of the Dean of Students. After suspension for a period of four years, any group must petition for establishment by submitting a new constitution, or submitting the old one, in order to reactivate the organization.

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, Chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 64. Administrative History:* Original rule filed September 15, 1976; effective October 15, 1976. Amendment and new rule filed December 5, 1979; effective February 12, 1980. Amendment filed August 22, 1980; effective December 1, 1980. Repeal and new rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (Formerly 1720-2-4-.06)

#### **1720-2-4-.08 DENIAL OF REGISTRATION.**

- (1) A refusal by the Dean of Students to recommend registration for a student organization must be based on one or more of the following:
  - (a) If the statement of purpose is illegal under local, state, or federal laws or does not conform with regular University regulations.
  - (b) If the organization would in the opinion of the Dean of Students constitute a clear and present danger to the continued or proper functioning of the University, or if its purposes are outside of the educational functions of the University.
- (2) The Dean of Students shall use the following procedures prior to any recommendation that an organization not be registered.
  - (a) If the organization's constitution does not conform with those requirements set forth in the policies governing student organizations, the Dean or his representative(s) shall meet informally with the organization in order to explain the violations and how the organization can meet the requirements by revising its constitution.
  - (b) If the violations are not eliminated or seem to fall under those criteria listed under Paragraph A above, the Dean of Students shall hold a hearing to determine whether the organization should be registered.
  - (c) Prior to the hearing the Dean of Students shall issue to the organization an order to show cause why registration should not be denied and stating the reasons for issuance of said show cause order.

(Rule 1720-2-4-.08, continued)

- (d) The Dean shall notify the organization in writing of the date, time, and place of hearing on the show cause order.
- (e) The Dean shall permit the organization to appear at the hearing with an adviser of its choice and to present evidence and argument on its behalf.
- (f) If the Dean determines that registration should not be granted, he shall issue a written report, a copy of which must be given to the organization, explaining the reasons for his negative recommendation to the Chancellor.

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, Chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 64. Administrative History:* Original rule filed September 15, 1976; effective October 15, 1976. Amendment and new rule filed December 5, 1979; effective February 12, 1980. Amendment filed August 22, 1980; effective December 1, 1980. Repeal and new rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (Formerly 1720-2-4-.07)

**1720-2-4-.09 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, Chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 64. Administrative History:* Original rule filed September 15, 1976; effective October 15, 1976. Amendment and new rule filed December 5, 1979; effective February 12, 1980. Repeal filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (Formerly 1720-2-4-.08).

**1720-2-4-.10 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, Chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 64. Administrative History:* Original rule filed September 15, 1976; effective October 15, 1976. Amendment and new rule filed December 5, 1979; effective February 12, 1980. Repeal filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (Formerly 1720-2-4-.09)

**1720-2-4-.11 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, Chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 64. Administrative History:* Original rule filed September 15, 1976; effective October 15, 1976. Amendment and new rule filed December 5, 1979; effective February 12, 1980. Repeal filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (Formerly 1720-2-4-.10)

**1720-2-4-.12 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, Chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 64. Administrative History:* Original rule filed September 15, 1976; effective October 15, 1976. Amendment and new rule filed December 5, 1979; effective February 12, 1980. Repeal filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (Formerly 1720-2-4-12)