

**RULES  
OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE**

**CHAPTER 1720-4-2  
TYPES OF REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

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**1720-4-2-.01 POLICY OVERVIEW.**

- (1) At UT, voluntary associations of students are an important part of the educational process. The University has a positive responsibility to encourage such associations as a means by which students can develop full civic and social awareness. In doing so it neither endorses nor disclaims any particular idea, system of thought or point of view. The ultimate testing place for all of these is not in any one office or council, but in the minds of responsible citizenry.
- (2) When groups of students wish to have a continuous association causing them to congregate for activities on the campus, requiring from time to time the use of University facilities and holding themselves out to the general public as a group centered on the campus, it is proper that they be registered by the University. All registered associations shall be accorded the same privileges and bound by the same obligations. Registration by the University does not constitute endorsement of the purposes or activities of an association by the faculty, administration or student body.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** New rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (For history prior to August 12, 1986 see pages (iii)-(v).) Amendment filed August 31, 1995; effective December 30, 1995. Amendment filed November 17, 2000; effective March 30, 2001.

**1720-4-2-.02 CATEGORIES OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.**

- (1) General. With the exception of social fraternities and sororities, whose relationship with the institution requires a more detailed and exacting peer and administrative review, any group of students may seek to register as either a Continuing or Temporary Registered Student Organization.
- (2) Continuing Registered Student Organizations. Any group of at least 10 students meeting the requirements contained herein and whose purpose for existing is presumed to endure beyond a given academic semester is considered a Continuing Registered Student Organization.
- (3) Temporary Registered Student Organization. Any group of at least 10 students meeting the requirements contained herein and whose purpose for existing is presumed to be less than 90 days is considered to be a Temporary Registered Student Organization.
- (4) Student Political Parties. Any group of at least 10 students meeting the requirements contained herein and whose purpose for existing is presumed to endure through elections for Student Government only will be considered a Student Political Party.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §4-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** New rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (For history prior to August 12, 1986 see pages (iii)-(v).) Amendment filed August 31, 1995; effective December 30, 1995. Amendment filed November 17, 2000; effective March 30, 2001.

**1720-4-2-.03 SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES.** Any group seeking to establish a social fraternal organization on campus must contact either the Interfraternity or Panhellenic Council for procedures and policies relative to this action. Registration is granted by the Provost on the recommendation of the Student Affairs staff. Withdrawal of registration of social fraternal organizations may be initiated by the University administration or the respective governing body with the final decision being the responsibility of the University administration. Social fraternities and sororities shall not be required to reveal their secret rituals provided these rituals do not conflict with local, state or federal law or with University regulations.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** New rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (For history prior to August 12, 1986 see pages (iii)-(v).) Amendment filed March 22, 1990; effective June 26, 1990. Amendment filed August 31, 1995; effective December 30, 1995. Amendment filed November 17, 2000; effective March 30, 2001.

**1720-4-2-.04 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.**

- (1) The Office of the Dean of Students shall utilize an Advisory Committee on Student Organizations in the procedural review of constitutions of proposed organizations. The ACSO may also formulate and recommend rules, regulations, and policies regarding registered student organizations.
- (2) Matters pertaining to policies within an organization shall be the concern of the organization and its advisory council. Matters pertaining to the relationship of an organization to other organizations or to the University shall be the concern of the ACSO.
- (3) Student members of the ACSO shall be appointed by the President of the Student Body with the approval of the Student Government Association. The Dean of Students will appoint a staff person to serve as committee secretary and liaison with the Office of the Dean of Students.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** New rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (For history prior to August 12, 1986 see pages (iii)-(v).) Amendment filed August 31, 1995; effective December 30, 1995. Amendment filed November 17, 2000; effective March 30, 2001.

**1720-4-2- 05 REGISTRATION PROCESS.**

- (1) New organizations may register any time during the year except during the last two weeks of an academic term. To apply, an organization must complete the proper form provided by the Office of the Dean of Students and submit three copies of its constitution to the Office of the Dean of Students for review. Local chapters of regional or national organizations will be required to submit their local constitution and, in addition, any statements of their parent organization to which their local constitution refers or which determine local policy above and beyond that which is stated in local constitution. The local constitution must contain the following:
  - (a) The name of the organization. The phrase "The University of Tennessee" is regarded as a trademark and consequently cannot precede the name of a campus organization; however, the phrase may follow the name, e.g., Chess Club at The University of Tennessee.
  - (b) A statement of the purpose. Said purpose must include aims and activities legal under local, state, and federal law, and this statement of purpose must be in conformity with written University regulations. It is required that the actual purpose of a student organization conform with the purposes stated within the organization's constitution.
  - (c) Membership eligibility requirements. Registered student organizations, including those affiliated with an extramural organization, shall be open to all students - unless the organization, by its nature, exists explicitly for a certain subgroup - in selecting its membership. There must be no discrimination with respect to race, gender, disability, religion or national origin. This statement must appear verbatim in organization constitutions.

(Rule 1720-4-2-.05, continued)

- (d) Officers. A listing of the names and titles of all officers as well as the names of at least ten (10) petitioning members shall be submitted with the constitution. This information should be completed on a form provided by the Office of the Dean of Students. Officers must be full-time students, except for organizations where membership is composed of both faculty and student members and a faculty member may serve as an officer. To be eligible to serve as an officer of a registered student organization, a student must be in good academic standing at the time of his/her election or appointment and during his/her term of office. In addition, a student may be judged ineligible for the office if found guilty by a Student Disciplinary Board of a violation of Student Standards of Conduct. When an election is held in a registered student organization, the names of the new officers must be transmitted to the Office of the Dean of Students within one (1) week.
  - (e) A statement of the terms of officers and the time and method of election.
  - (f) Frequency of meetings.
  - (g) Financial statement. A statement of any membership dues, including amount and frequency of payment; agreement that all funds will be received and disbursed through the Student Activities Business Office if the organization receives University Programs and Services Fee Funds; and a provision for the disposition of funds remaining in the event of the dissolution of the group must be included.
  - (h) Provision for faculty advisor. All registered student organizations must choose one or more advisors, and a provision for this selection must be included in the constitution, but the name of the advisor(s) should not be listed. Except for local chapters of national social fraternities and sororities, which may have alumni advisors, the advisor shall be a full-time faculty member or administrative officer. In procuring an advisor, questions regarding faculty or administrative status should be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students. Advisors are responsible for being familiar with the constitution and purposes of the student organization they are advising and with University policies regarding student organizations. Advisors may counsel their organization in the exercise of responsibility, but they do not have the authority to control the policy of the organization. The officers of the organization are responsible for keeping their advisors aware of the policies and actions of their organization. Financial records must be available to the organization's advisors at all times.
- (2) The ACSO will review the constitution and any other information available in order to determine whether the organization conforms to the policies and regulations established for the registration of University student organizations.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** New rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (For history prior to August 12, 1986 see pages (iii)-(v).) Amendment filed March 22, 1990; effective June 26, 1990. Amendment filed October 31, 1990; effective January 29, 1991. Amendment filed August 31, 1995; effective December 30, 1995. Amendment filed January 13, 1999; effective May 31, 1999. Amendment filed November 17, 2000; effective March 30, 2001.

#### **1720-4-2-.06 RECOMMENDATION FOR REGISTRATION.**

- (1) If the ACSO determines that the organization should be registered, it will so recommend to the Dean of Students in writing and provide a copy of said correspondence to the petitioning group. The group may begin operation ten days after receipt of the letter unless notified in writing that the Dean of Students has rejected the Committee's recommendation.
- (2) All prospective organizations are allowed three organizational meetings in University facilities prior to action of the ACSO.

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

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, chapter 64. Administrative History:* *New rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (For history prior to August 12, 1986 see pages (iii)-(v).) Amendment filed August 31, 1995; effective December 30, 1995.*

**1720-4-2-.07 HAZING.** 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.*

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

- (1) A refusal by the ACSO to recommend registration of a student organization or a refusal by the Dean of Students to register an organization must be based on one or more of the following grounds:
  - (a) The statement of purpose is illegal under local, state, or federal laws or does not conform with written University regulations.
  - (b) The organization would, in the opinion of the ACSO or the Dean of Students, constitute a danger to the continued or proper functioning of the University.

**Authority:** *Public Acts of Tennessee, 1839-1840, chapter 98, Section 5 and Public Acts of Tennessee, 1807, chapter 64. Administrative History:* *New rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (For history prior to August 12, 1986 see pages (iii)-(v).) Amendment filed August 31, 1995; effective December 30, 1995. (Formerly 1720-4-2-.07)*

**1720-4-2-.09 TERMS OF REGISTRATION.**

- (1) An updated list of registered organizations is prepared each term by the Office of the Dean of Students. Organizations must complete the Information Form provided by the Office of the Dean of Students in order to be included on the official list.
- (2) A student organization may be removed from the list of registered organizations by the ACSO or the Dean of Students if:
  - (a) The organization does not show a reasonable amount of activity in promoting the ends and purposes specified in its constitution, as evidenced by membership meetings and other activities. Student organizations are expected to comply when requested to provide a brief report on their year's activities.
  - (b) The organization violates University regulations, including those governing student organizations, or local, state or federal laws.

**Authority:** *T.C.A. §49-9-209(e). Administrative History:* *New rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (For history prior to August 12, 1986 see pages (iii)-(v).) Amendment filed March 22, 1990; effective June 26, 1990. Amendment filed August 31, 1995; effective December 30, 1995. (Formerly 1720-4-2-.08). Amendment filed January 13, 1999; effective May 31, 1999. Amendment filed November 17, 2000; effective March 30, 2001.*

**1720-4-2-.10 APPEALS.**

- (1) Any decision by the Dean of Students refusing to register an organization or any decision by the ACSO to withdraw registration from an organization may be appealed to the Students Affairs Council by the affected organization. In addition, any decision by the ACSO to refuse to withdraw registration from an organization upon request by the Dean of Students may be appealed by the Dean of Students to the Student Affairs Council.

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

- (2) When a decision by the ACSO or the Dean of Students is appealed, the Student Affairs Council shall abide by the following procedures in hearing the appeal:
  - (a) The ACSO or Dean of Students (depending on whose decision is being appealed) has the burden of proving the charges against the organization, including the presentation of a detailed statement of why the organization should be denied registration or registration should be withdrawn under the University's policy governing student organizations.
  - (b) The organization may be represented by an advisor of its choice.
  - (c) The organization may present a defense against the charges. A copy of the charges must have been provided to the organization a reasonable time in advance of the hearing, along with all information available to the ACSO or the Dean of Students in drawing up the charges.
- (3) The decision of any board or administrative officer of The University of Tennessee is subject to review by the Provost and the President.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** New rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (For history prior to August 12, 1986 see pages (iii)-(v).) Amendment filed October 31, 1990; effective January 29, 1991. Amendment filed August 31, 1995; effective December 30, 1995. (Formerly 1720-4-2-.09). Amendment filed November 17, 2000; effective March 30, 2001.

#### 1720-4-2-.11 AFFILIATIONS.

- (1) Registered student organizations may be affiliated with an organization off 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 purposes set forth in the constitution.
  - (c) Not such as to change significantly the nature of the organization as primarily an association of students on campus. Affiliation with an extramural organization does not of itself affect the right of a student organization to operate on the campus. When seeking registration, the student organization must make clear those obligations imposed on the local chapter by extramural affiliation.
  - (d) When there is a conflict between the policies and procedures of the extramural organization and those of the University (e.g., policies pertaining to membership eligibility or voting privileges), the obligation of the student organization is to the University and its policies.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** New rule filed May 27, 1986; effective August 12, 1986. (For history prior to August 12, 1986 see pages (iii)-(v).) Amendment filed August 31, 1995; effective December 30, 1995. (Formerly 1720-4-2-.10). Amendment filed November 17, 2000; effective March 30, 2001.