Student Activities Policies

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I. Introduction

As a Catholic University focused on the development of students for lives of leadership and service and centered in the CSJ charism of unifying love, Mount Saint Mary’s University, Los Angeles seeks to provide a campus community where all are welcome and invited to contribute to a vibrant campus community.

The University recognizes the importance of undergraduate Registered Student Organizations and Departmental Student Programs in student life and the holistic educational experience of students. Support for Registered Student Organizations is provided by the department of Women’s Leadership and Student Engagement and the Division of Student Affairs.

Involvement outside of the classroom provides opportunities for personal and professional development that must also be balanced with academic commitment and achievement. As such, the following academic and discipline standards have been set forth in this policy to assist with Students’ academic success.

II. Definitions

Registered Student Organizations

Registered Student Organizations are designed to meet the interest of students and contribute to the Mount’s mission and campus life through their events and programming.

These groups are initiated and led by students, have an advisor, are approved through the university chartering and certification process, and are overseen by the Women’s Leadership and Student Engagement office. Registered Student Organizations must apply annually to recertify and receive formal recognition from the University.

A Registered Student Organization is comprised of at least 10 traditional undergraduate students who meet all University requirements for registration as an organization. In order to maintain active status, clubs and organizations must have a minimum of four executive board officers as follows: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Departmental Student Programs

Departmental Student Programs are designated by the Vice President for Student Affairs and operate under the direct guidance and supervision of a University department. Their purpose, activities and functions are seen as key elements in carrying out the University’s mission. They provide a service to the University and are integral to the function of the department and/or University. Student leaders of Departmental Student Programs are typically chosen or selected by the department, must adhere to the leadership position eligibility in this policy and in some cases may be compensated.
III. Policy

A. Membership Eligibility

Membership for Registered Student Organizations shall be open to traditional undergraduate students currently enrolled at Mount Saint Mary's University. Non-traditional students, alumni, and the general public may not be members of traditional undergraduate groups. Groups must have a minimum of 10 members to maintain active status.

1. Academic Standing: Students must be currently enrolled traditional undergraduate students at Mount Saint Mary's University. Students must be in good academic standing and may not be on academic probation or subject to disqualification in order to be eligible to participate as a member of a Registered Student Organization or Departmental Student Program. Registered Student Organizations and Departmental Student Programs may impose a higher standard. Members may be removed from the organization if they do not meet the eligibility requirements.

2. Registered Student Organizations and Departmental Student Programs that have and follow an established member academic improvement program approved by Women's Leadership and Student Engagement may be given deference to handle membership GPA eligibility issues within their organization or program.

B. Leadership Position Eligibility

1. Academic Standing: Students must be in good academic standing and may not be on academic probation or subject to disqualification in order to be eligible to participate as an officer of a Registered Student Organization or Departmental Student Program. Students must maintain a minimum 2.7 term and cumulative GPA.
   a. A higher academic standard may be imposed by Departmental Student Programs for their respective programs.
   b. Departmental Student Programs that have and follow an established Student leader academic improvement program approved by their respective department may be given deference to handle leadership GPA eligibility issues within their program.

2. Disciplinary Standing: Students must be deemed in good disciplinary standing by the Office of Student Conduct in order to be eligible to serve in a leadership position.

3. Executive Board Officers: Due to the level of responsibility and accountability required of student groups, a student may not serve as an Executive Board Member for more than two chartered groups concurrently and may not serve in more than one position within an organization.
4. Presidents: Due to the level of responsibility and accountability required of student group presidents, student leaders may not serve as president of more than one club or organization, unless first approved by the Women’s Leadership and Student Engagement office.

**Student Event and Activity Approval Policy**

I. Introduction

The Division of Student Affairs supports the holistic development of students through programs and services designed to empower students as leaders, learners, and advocates for a just society. Grounded in the principles of our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, we believe in the transformative power of an intentionally designed and executed co-curricular life. In the spirit of our signature Mount Leads initiative, we support student-led events and programs that provide opportunities for social, spiritual, and intellectual growth with a focus on wellness and centered in a commitment to contribute to our Mount community and beyond.

As part of our commitment to the development of a dynamic and diverse community, Mount Saint Mary’s University values and encourages the expression and exchange of ideas. Registered Student Organization and Departmental Student Program leaders are expected to become familiar with the Student Freedom of Expression Policy.

II. Policy

The Women’s Leadership and Student Engagement department oversees the student event and activity approval process. Registered Student Organizations must seek approval for all events, activities, and speakers, both in person and virtual, by following the procedures outlined in the Student Involvement Policy Guide. The guide includes more detailed information about event approval and planning, as well as links to applicable University policies. All applicable University policies, including those governing Student events, safety, ticket sales, amplification, parking and transportation, facilities and grounds, catering, alcohol, media, political campaigning, etc. must be observed while planning and implementing the event or activity. Student organizers are expected to familiarize themselves with the Student Conduct Code, as well as the event planning guidelines and procedures published by Women’s Leadership and Student Engagement in the Student Involvement Policy Guide, prior to submitting event and activity requests.

All costs associated with an event or activity are the responsibility of the Registered Student Organization or Departmental Student Program. Registered Student Organization and Departmental Student Program sponsorship of an event, activity, speaker or performer does not imply University endorsement of the views presented.

All events are approved by Women’s Leadership and Student Engagement. However, there may be times when the Vice President for Student Affairs, or designee, may request modification or not approve an event or activity based on the above considerations. A previously approved event or activity may be canceled or postponed by the Vice President for
Student Affairs, or designee, based on additional relevant information or significant developments relative to the above considerations that would warrant canceling or postponing the event.

III. Considerations for Approval

A. Approval of Student events and activities, including those with invited speakers and performers, will be based on, but is not limited to:

1. The title, goals and objectives of the event;
2. The format of the event;
3. The availability of campus resources and support services;
4. The impact on human and/or fiscal resources
5. The impact on campus facilities.

B. When it comes to approving Student events and activities involving speakers and performers, factors to also be considered in this determination include:

1. Whether the track record of the speaker or performer in other settings has been marked with any violence, direct and targeted safety threats or other disruption incompatible with this policy;
2. The University’s ability to ensure the physical safety of those participating or attending an event.

C. Student events and activities should not:

1. Violate federal, state or local laws;
2. Advocate for actions or positions that are deliberately intended to incite violence against any group or individual;
3. Imminently threaten the physical safety of any community members;
4. Constitute a clear, present and significant risk to the orderly implementation of the University’s activities and its obligation to maintain a physically safe environment for its community and its members.
Anti-Hazing Policy

All acts of hazing by a Student, team or recognized student organization, including their members, alumni or associated individuals are prohibited. Asserted hazing violations will subject Student Conduct Code processes and violators may be subject to severe sanction including suspension, dismissal and loss of University recognition.

Definition: Hazing is defined in California Penal Code section 245.6(b) as any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a Student Organization or Student Body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury to any former, current, or prospective Student of any school, community college, college, university or other educational institution in this state. For purposes of this Policy, Hazing is defined broadly to include any actions or activities which fall within the California legal definition as well as actions or activities often associated with initiations which do not contribute to the positive development of a person or which inflict or intend to cause mental, physical or emotional harm or anxieties; or which demean, degrade or disgrace any person. This policy is applicable regardless of location, intent or consent of participants.

Examples: Such activities may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Bodily danger
- Excessive, unlawful or inappropriate use of alcohol
- Excessive, unlawful or inappropriate consumption of food, liquids, drugs or other substances

Physical Harm/Discomfort

- Paddling, whipping, beating in any form
- Creation of excessive fatigue such as sleep deprivation or repetitive activity
- Physical or psychological shocks
- Placing harmful substance on a student
- Exposure to elements
- Confinement in a small space
- Excessive or inappropriate Exercise

Emotional Harm/Discomfort

- Any activity that intimidates or threatens a student with ostracism.
- Any activity that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, shame or humiliation such as driving around for long periods of time with eyes closed.
Personal Degradation

- The wearing of apparel which is conspicuous, inappropriate and not normally in good taste.
- Engaging in morally degrading or humiliating games and activities or any other activities not consistent with national, organizational or local policies, or the policies of the University.