

Approval of New or Reestablished Student Clubs

Students are encouraged to establish clubs based on new interest or reactivate clubs, which are no longer active. Campus organizations and student activities are encouraged and may be established for any lawful purpose. All student activities and organizations operate under the Student Government Association (SGA). To move toward and receive formal recognition, a College group must:

Submit an application for recognition to the Student Activities Office. The application must include a completed club registration form and copies of the group's constitution along with a signed statement by a College employee stating that said employee is willing to serve as the campus advisor to the group.

Within 10 working days of receipt of the application for recognition, the SGA shall make a recommendation to the Dean of Student Services regarding formal recognition of the group. The Dean of Student Services shall approve or disapprove the application within 5 days of receipt of the SGA's recommendation. In the event that the SGA fails to deliver a recommendation to the Dean of Student Services within 10 days, the Dean of Student Services shall act on the application without the SGA's recommendation. In the event that the Dean of Student Services disapproves the application, the group may appeal the decision in writing to the College President. The President shall render a final decision within 10 college business days of receipt of the appeal.

Where there is affiliation with an external organization such as a national honor society, that organization's constitution and bylaws shall be filed with the SGA. Amendments shall be submitted to the SGA within a reasonable time. All organizational funds shall be handled in accordance with established Virginia Community College System policy. College recognition of an organization implies neither approval nor disapproval of the aims, objectives, and policies of the organization. However, membership in any recognized organization shall be open to any member of the College community without regard to race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, political affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, or against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities.

Individual members of any organization who engage in illegal activities on or off campus may have sanctions imposed against them as set forth in the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Members retain the right of appeal as set forth in the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Student Publications

A student, student group, or student organization shall not distribute or communicate material on campus without prior approval of the Dean of Student Services. Approval shall be granted within 5 college business days unless, in the opinion of the Dean of Student Services, the material violates the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists. Libelous or obscene material does not conform to the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists.

All student communications shall explicitly state on the editorial page that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the institution or its student body. Editors and managers shall not be arbitrarily suspended because of student, faculty, administration, or community disapproval of editorial policy or publication content.

This editorial freedom entails a corollary obligation under the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists. The Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists will be made available by the faculty advisor of the student publications. Copies of the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists are also available in the office of the Dean of Student Services. Any breach in the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists perpetrated by a student publication will be referred to the Advisory Council to the Dean of Student Services which will judge publication content solely by the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists. If a breach in the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists is judged significant, Advisory Council to the Dean of Student Services has the authority to sanction or dismiss the editor of the publication. The Advisory Council to the Dean of Student Services will approve the appointment of publication editors. When a vacancy exists, the publication faculty advisor will recommend a student(s) to fill the position. This student will be assessed for academic good standing, experience, and commitment to the publication.

Student Participation In College Governance

Student participation in College decision-making and policy development is strongly encouraged. Students are nominated by the faculty and staff to serve on standing committees and ad-hoc committees. The S.G.A. President and one student elected by the student body serve on the College Council. Student representatives are invited to serve on special and ad-hoc committees such as the Bookstore Advisory Committee and the Commencement Committee. The Student Government Association is considered the representative organization for the student body and is consulted for student response, reaction and feedback on relevant issues as they arise. Elections are held for Student Government Association Officers in the spring and for Senators in the fall. Contact Student Activities at (540) 834-1004 if you would like additional information.