

Student Organizations

All student organizations are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct in the same book as well as all rules and regulations spelled out by the Office of Campus Involvement. Any alleged violations by a student organization will initially be considered by the Director of Campus Involvement. At that point the Director will decide to either take care of the matter or have an administrative hearing with staff members. Individual members of an organization that are violating policy will be referred to the campus judicial system. In limited cases the entire student organization can be referred to the campus judicial system.

Here are more specific details that can be included in the Handbook and/or in materials prepared by the Office of Campus Involvement:

Student organizations are expected and required to adhere to all guidelines spelled out by the Office of Campus Involvement, as well as the Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.

In instances where a student organization violates a rule or policy, written reports will be prepared and reviewed by the Director of Campus Involvement. At that point the Director of Campus Involvement can refer the matter to one of three places:

1. The Director may decide to resolve the matter themselves by meeting with the organization,
2. The Director may convene an administrative hearing to consider the matter and make recommendations to the Director, or
3. The Director may refer the matter to the Office of Citizenship Education to be handled by the campus judicial system.

In instances where an individual of a student organization allegedly violates the Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook, that student will be referred to the campus judicial system.

When the Director of Campus Involvement convenes an administrative hearing to hear a case involving a student organization, the following guidelines will be used:

1. The hearing board will have three staff members, with at least one member coming outside of Student Life.
2. Student organizations will be represented by the President of their organization. One other officer may be present.
3. The President of the organization will be sent a copy of all written materials and reports being considered by the hearing board. They will also be sent in writing a notice of what rules and regulations are allegedly being violated.
4. During the hearing, the organization will have a chance to make an opening statement and call any relevant witnesses. The hearing board will have a chance to ask questions and determine which witnesses might be relevant to a hearing.
5. The standard of proof is "a preponderance of the evidence". In other words, in the mind of the hearing body, the incident is "more likely than not" to have happened the way the hearing body sees it. The evidence must show that the outcome is 51% more likely than an alternative outcome in the mind of the hearing body.
6. If it is determined that a rule or regulation was violated, sanctions will be recommended to the Director by the hearing board. The Director will consider the recommendations and make the final determination about sanctions, if any.

A student organization can appeal any decision made by the Director or an administrative hearing board. Appeals will be considered by the Vice President and Dean of Students. Appeals must be in writing within three business days of being notified of a decision. An organization may only appeal a decision if one of the following criteria are met: a) there is new evidence that was not available at the time of the hearing, or b) there was a failure to follow published procedures that would have affected the outcome of a hearing. Any ruling on an appeal made by the Vice President and Dean of Students is final.