CHAPTER SEVEN

The ACT for REGISTRATION of STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

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PREAMBLE

This Act for Registration of Student Organizations exists to enumerate the rights and obligations associated with the registration of a student organization. The grant of registration to a student organization confers those rights as enumerated in this Act.

ARTICLE I. REGISTRATION OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

§7-1.1. Obtaining Registration.
Application for registration shall constitute a student organization's agreement to comply with each of the requirements and regulations enumerated in this Act.

SECTION 1. Requirements and Regulations

§7-1.2. Purview.
The student organization will abide by all applicable requirements of state and Federal law and local ordinances, by all University of North Carolina and University of North Carolina at Charlotte policies, guidelines, rules and regulations, including but not limited to the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Responsibility, and by all applicable requirements imposed under the authority of the Student Senate, including but not limited to this Act.

§7-1.3. Student Organization Membership.
Membership in the student organization will be open to all interested students at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Membership will be permitted only for enrolled students, faculty and staff at UNC Charlotte. However, all student organizations must be composed of at least 51 percent student membership.

§7-1.4. Imposing Restrictions on Student Organization Membership.
Every student organization will honor the right of every student to equal opportunity in accordance with the First Amendment right of freedom of association.

(a) Membership and participation in recognized student organizations must be open to all students without regard to age, race, color, national origin, disability, religious status or historic religious affiliation, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Membership and participation in registered student organizations must also be open without regard to gender, unless exempt under Title IX (as outlined in SBS §7-1.5).

(b) Registered student organizations that select their members on the basis of commitment to a set of beliefs (e.g. religious or political) may limit membership and participation in the organization to students who, upon individual inquiry, affirm that they support the organization's goals and agree with its beliefs, so long as no student is excluded from membership or participation on the basis of his or her age, race, color, national origin, disability, religious status or historic religious affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, or, unless exempt under Title IX (as outlined in SBS §7-1.5), gender.

§7-1.5. Restricting Membership by Gender.
Fraternities or sororities recognized by the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Association, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Independent Council, or the Diversified Greek Councils, may limit membership on the basis of gender only. Any student organization not recognized by such groups but still wanting to limit membership on the basis of gender must:

(a) be affiliated with a national headquarters exempt from taxation pursuant to US Code Title 26, Subtitle A, Chapter 1, Subchapter F, Part I, Section 501(a) exemption; and,
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(b) if a fraternity or sorority, meet the requirements set forth in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life Recognition Guidelines for UNC Charlotte Fraternities and Sororities.

§7-1.6. Student Organization Constitutions.
(a) The student organization shall establish a constitution to govern its operation and shall maintain a copy of its current constitution and/or by-laws online in OrgSync.
(b) Constitutions of student organizations shall include a clause stating the organization will not discriminate in its membership policies or otherwise in accordance with SBS §7-1.4, unless specifically provided for in this Act.
(c) Organizations must also include their purpose statement, a statement to abide by UNC Charlotte policies, officer selection and removal processes, member selection and removal processes, and specific voting margins.
(d) Student organizations must also agree to comply with the University Hazing Policy.

§7-1.7. Media Organizations.
New student organizations that register with the main function of being a "media" organization should follow the same process set forth for all new student organizations. After three consecutive years as a registered student organization in good standing, the organization may petition Student Niner Media to be a part of the Student Niner Media Board and gain the benefits and resources available to organizations governed by the Student Niner Media Board. At that time, the balance remaining in the organization's account of any annual funding received through the Student Government Association would transfer with the organization to the Student Niner Media Board to be allocated to the organization under its new designation as a student media organization governed by the Student Niner Media Board.

§7-1.8. Student Organization Advisor.
The student organization is encouraged, but not required, to have an official advisor who is a current member of the faculty or staff at UNC Charlotte. The student organization is permitted, but not required, to register up to two Affiliate Advisors who are not current members of the UNC Charlotte faculty or staff. Applications for Affiliate Advisors must be submitted annually and are subject to the approval of the Office of Student Activities.

§7-1.9. Officers.
The student organization will have at least three officers who are currently enrolled students with the University. Student Organization officers shall include a President, Treasurer, and Vice-President or Secretary. The student organization shall provide the president's address along with every officer's telephone number and registered email to the Office of Student Activities.

§7-1.10. Registration.
(a) All student organizations are required to register annually with the Student Government Association. The registration period begins on April 1 and concludes on the second Friday in September at 5:00 p.m. Any student organization not completing a registration form each year will lose its registration status. Registration will be completed online at http://orgsync.com. The Associate Director of Student Activities and the Organizational Ways and Means Committee Chair will inform all existing student organizations of this deadline via email and other official University communication methods.
(b) All student organizations must maintain at least eight students who are participants within the group, and provide a list of members along with their telephone numbers and registered email addresses online in OrgSync.
(c) Every renewing organization must complete the Student Organization Registration Workshop on an annual basis. The workshop must be attended by at least one of the three new officers. New student organizations may meet with the Associate Director of Student Activities in
place of this workshop. Organizations in the Sport Clubs category may complete this workshop with the Rec Services Department.

(d) Every renewing organization must complete a funding workshop with the respective organizations that provide their funding on an annual basis. The workshop must be attended by at least one of the three required officers. New student organizations may meet with the Associate Director of Student Activities in place of this workshop.

(c) The Organizational Ways & Means Committee of SGA is the designated reviewing body for approval of new student organizations.

(f) If students receive academic credit for participation in an organization, then the organization is not eligible to be considered a registered student organization.

SECTION 2. Rights Conferred through Registration

§7-1.11. Meeting & Event Space. Student organizations that have been granted registration status pursuant to Article 1, Section 1 of this Act enjoy priority scheduling in reserving meeting and event space in the Student Union and other university facilities in accordance with University space reservation procedures.

§7-1.12. Use of University Names. Organizations may use the names "UNC Charlotte" or "The University of North Carolina at Charlotte" in conjunction with the official name of the organization; provided, however, that such use of those names shall not constitute a grant of authority to the student organization or to any of its members by virtue of their membership to have, or to represent themselves as having authority to act as an agent for, to speak on behalf of, or to obligate, bind or to otherwise commit the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the Student Senate, or the Student Government Association, contractually or in any other manner whatsoever including invoking the University's tax exempt status. Additionally, these terms may only be used at the end of an organization’s name and not at the beginning. (ex. XYZ Club at UNC Charlotte)

§7-1.13. Finances. The grant of registration by the Organizational Ways and Means Committee of SGA confers upon the student organization the right to apply for funds allocated by the Student Senate, provide that such application shall meet the requirements of the Financial Procedures Act.

§7-1.14. University E-mail Accounts. Each organization can also receive a UNC Charlotte e-mail account.

§7-1.15. Office Space, Lockers, and Mailboxes. All student organizations will have the opportunity to apply for an office space, storage locker, and/or mailbox in the Student Union as availability permits. A member of each student organization should check and clean out the assigned mailbox a minimum of once per week.

§7-1.16. Student Organization Resource Center. Organizations may use computers, meeting space, resources, supplies and library materials made available to them in the Student Organization Resource Center, located in the Student Government and Organizations Complex in the Student Union.

§7-1.17. Other Services. Organizations may obtain assistance from the Office of Student Activities, including leadership training, educational workshops, general organizational advising, event planning, advisor training, publicity, and reference materials. Additional benefits include listings in any Directories of student organizations, and potential participation in University events such as the International Festival, Homecoming, Student Organization Showcases, or Union Take Overs as availability permits.
ARTICLE II. PENALTIES, APPEALS & GRIEVANCES

SECTION 1. Penalties

§7-2.1. Revocation of Registration.
A student organization must successfully meet all of the requirements set forth in Article 1 of this Act in order to be officially registered as a student organization. An organization found to be in violation of any of these requirements may lose its University registration status. The Organizational Ways and Means Committee of the Student Government Association, in conjunction with the Office of Student Activities, will make all decisions regarding the revocation of registration and will notify an organization within one week if its registration and those rights conferred through official registration have been revoked. The Office of Student Conduct will make decisions regarding the revocation of registration related to organizational conduct.

§7-2.2. Suspension of Registration.
Student organizations that do not successfully submit registration information by the second Friday of September of each year will no longer be considered registered. These student organizations will then have all rights listed in Article 2: Section 2 suspended, including current funding, until the organization registers. Organizations may reapply for registration at any time throughout the academic year, but must again complete all requirements listed in Article 1, Section 1. Organizations that do not complete the annual re-registration process for a period of 2 years or more will be considered a new organization and must abide by the process for new organization approval.

SECTION 2. Appeals and Grievances

§7-2.3. Filing a Grievance.
A student who believes that he or she was denied membership or participation in a student organization because of his or her age, race, color, national origin, disability, religious status or historic religious affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, or, unless exempt under Title IX, gender; may appeal such action in accordance with the Student Grievance Procedure that is listed in Policy Statement #75, Student Appeals and Grievances, found online at http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-75.html.

§7-2.4. Fact-Finding Panel.
In accordance with the Student Grievance Procedure, if no mutually acceptable resolution can be reached, then three people may be appointed to a fact-finding panel, which may include members of the Judicial Board of the Student Government Association.

§7-2.5. Final Authority of Appeals.
In accordance with the Student Grievance Procedure, the fact-finding panel will submit the panel's report to the appropriate administrator, in this case the Dean of Students, for a decision. The Dean of Students will then submit his or her decision in writing to the student and to the person alleged to have caused the grievance within 10 days of receipt of the panel's report.