



GUIDELINES FOR DATE/SERVICE AUCTIONS

The Division of Student Affairs is responsible for providing programs, services and activities in an environment that contributes to students becoming socially responsible global citizens. Its goal is to provide quality campus life experiences that enhance the learning and development of all students. In reflecting on this goal we have determined that date and service auctions are inappropriate activities for student groups, clubs and organizations at FAU. The following procedures have been prepared for those student groups and organizations in the university community who are still considering hosting date or service auctions.

Racial Awareness

Date auctions have historical reminiscences of slave auctions. Slave auctions are realistic events in this country's history. While this may not be the intent of date auctions today, they present human beings as property to be purchased. Regardless of the form of payment for a person or his/her services, an auction (often involving a bidding process) may devalue the person being auctioned. On a campus where inclusiveness is at the very fabric of our community, any activity promoting the purchase of a human being for services to another fails to promote a diverse, open, and accepting environment.

Gender Awareness

Furthering the mission of inclusiveness, respecting the rights of others is valued in our community. One of the underlying issues that often exist in date auctions is the idea of entitlement. Date rapes, sexual assaults or any other inappropriate acts may result from this assumption from both men and women. Purchasing a person's services may promote "entitlement" in the person bidding. Date auctions can create disharmony within a community by disadvantaging participants.

Personal Safety

Date auctions involve a person spending time with another person. Often these persons are not familiar with the other person. This has the potential of resulting in hidden attractions or desires that may be inappropriate or pose harm. While this may be an extreme case scenario, the possibilities are real. Student organizations must consider such possibilities as well as potential liability implications when preparing to host a date auction.

Alternative Activities

Date auctions are often used as fundraising activities that support charitable organizations. The Division of Student Affairs recognizes these efforts as positive intentions that engage students in civic responsibility. However, student organizations are encouraged to choose among the many other creative and imaginative fundraising activities and programs that promote an inclusive and safe environment. These include book fairs, silent auctions (donated items), car wash, requesting donations, ad sales for program or ad booklets, or ticket sales for a party or event, etc.

Given the information shared above, the following guidelines have been established:

In preparation for hosting a date auction (i.e. exchanging services for money), you must complete the following steps in chronological order to have your event approved:

1. Schedule a meeting with the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students Office or designee to discuss the details of the event, including but not limited to the rationale and details for the event.
2. Have participants sign the “Date Auction Participation Agreement”. This agreement should be signed by all participants (the persons being bided upon and the persons bidding). These forms should be attached to the Program Registration Form. The agreement forms are located in the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students Office.
3. Complete a Program Registration Form with the Office of Student Development & Activities. This form must be approved before the activity or program can occur.

Important Details...

- The student organization advisor must be present during the entire activity.
- The Student Development & Activities, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students staff and/or designee reserves the right to attend the event.
- Failure to follow policies and/or procedures can result in the loss of privileges and benefits of being a student organization and/or disciplinary actions including referral to the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students Office.

Approved by VPSA on November 14, 2008