Florida Atlantic University

Regulation 4.006  Student Government and Registered Student Organizations

(1) PURPOSE.
(a) Student Government and Registered Student Organizations are an essential part of the Florida Atlantic University community and are an integral part of the total academic program. The presence of a diverse group of organizations is in the best interest of the University and its Students. Such organizations foster valuable experiences for Students that lead to significant learning and development and create a sense of belonging.
(b) Student Government and Registered Student Organizations provide a valuable service to the University community by promoting leadership development, community spirit, activism, community service, and social and cultural interaction. Student Government and Registered Student Organizations sponsor conferences, seminars, lectures, debates, cultural and social events, and fine arts programs. These activities allow FAU Students to meet and interact with local, state, nationally, and internationally renowned scholars, artists, politicians, academicians and other professionals. Student Government and Registered Student Organization members spend countless volunteer hours each academic year participating in service projects for campus and community efforts.

(2) RECOGNITION.
University recognition of a Registered Student Organization means that the Registered Student Organization has completed the requirements for University recognition and is eligible for certain privileges. University recognition does not imply University endorsement of the activities of the Registered Student Organization or of Student Government. University recognition also does not imply that the Registered Student Organization has been granted status as an entity or agent of the State of Florida or Florida Atlantic University. While faculty and staff members of the University serve in advisory capacities to Registered Student Organizations and Student Government, it is presumed that Students of legal adult age are adults and, therefore, make and are accountable for their decisions and behaviors as individuals and as members of the organization.

(3) DEFINITIONS.
(a) Dean of Students. The term “Dean of Students” refers to any of the following persons or offices: Associate Vice President and Dean of Students, Associate Dean of Students, Assistant Dean of Students, and their respective designees.
(b) Vice President. The term “Vice President” refers to the Vice President for Student Affairs and his/her designees.
(c) Interest Group. The term “Interest Group” is defined as a group of two or more currently enrolled Florida Atlantic University Students who are degree seeking and have submitted a Statement of Intent to Organize form with Student
Involvement & Leadership, but is not yet recognized as a Registered Student Organization.

(d) Registered Student Organization. The term “Registered Student Organization” is defined as a group of ten or more currently enrolled Florida Atlantic University Students who are degree seeking and have completed the procedures for the formation of a Registered Student Organization as outlined in this Regulation and have received recognition by the University as a Registered Student Organization.

(e) Student. The term “Student” is as defined in the Student Code of Conduct, Florida Atlantic University Regulation 4.007.

(f) Student Government. The term “Student Government” refers to Student Government and all Student Government Programs at the University. Student Government shall be the representative of all Students and is encouraged to function on campus with the recognition that ultimate authority for University affairs rests with the University Board of Trustees and University administration.

(g) Student Involvement & Leadership. The term “Student Involvement & Leadership” shall refer to the Office of Student Involvement & Leadership on each campus.

(h) Student Officer. The term “Student Officer” shall refer to all elected or appointed positions (paid or volunteer) within Student Government or Registered Student Organizations.

(i) Registered Student Organization Manual. The term “Registered Student Organization Manual” refers to the governing document, and all policies within Student Involvement & Leadership, as well as the Sports Club Handbook and/or other Registered Student Organization Manuals.

(4) STUDENT GOVERNMENT.

(a) The Vice President for Student Affairs is the designated representative of the University President in all matters pertaining to Student life and governance.

(b) The governing organization of the Student body of Florida Atlantic University is known as the Student Government of Florida Atlantic University. Student Government shall be organized and maintained to represent the entire student body of Florida Atlantic University.

(c) Student Government may adopt internal procedures, including but not limited to a constitution, statutes, and other legislative acts (including adoption, amendments, and repeals) (collectively referred to as its “Internal Procedures”); may establish elected or appointed Student Officer positions; and may recommend employment of personnel required to carry out its functions. All Student Government Internal Procedures must be approved by the University Board of Trustees or its designee prior to implementation. The University Board of Trustees delegates its approval authority over the Student Government’s annual budget to the University President or designee. The University Board of Trustees delegates its approval authority over all other Student Government Internal Procedures to the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee. Any Internal Procedures approved by the University President or designee or the Vice President for Student Affairs must be consistent with applicable law, FAU and Florida Board of Governors’
policies and regulations, and must generally serve the best interests of the FAU Student body.

(d) Student Government is authorized to make recommendations through the Student Government President, a member of the University Board of Trustees, concerning all University policies, regulations, and operating procedures which significantly affect Students, and is authorized to nominate Students to serve on University committees, councils and boards which have Student membership or representation.

(e) Student Government shall conduct its activities in full compliance with all applicable Federal and State of Florida laws and FAU and BOG regulations, rules and policies.

(f) Any elected or appointed Student Government Officer who pleads guilty, no contest, receives deferred prosecution (or similar disposition) or is convicted of a felony or is found civilly liable for an act of moral turpitude will be immediately suspended from office and temporarily replaced. The University President or his/her designee will appoint a temporary replacement if Student Government’s succession process is unable to produce a replacement within ten (10) business days. If the plea, deferred prosecution, conviction, or verdict is not lifted or overturned, and if all rights of judicial appeal have been exercised, waived, or expired, the suspension will become a permanent removal. This procedure is distinct from and in addition to the processes under the Florida Atlantic University Student Code of Conduct, Regulation 4.007.

(g) All Student Government Officers must undergo orientation and training provided by the Dean of Students or his/her designee. Orientation and training may include but is not limited to workshops, presentations, retreats, trainings, seminars and/or academic courses. Failure to undergo orientation and/or training may result in being removed from elected or appointed office. Exemptions may be provided by the Dean of Students or his/her designee upon request by the Student Government Officer with appropriate justification for such an exemption.

(h) Student Government shall be granted certain privileges as approved by the FAU Division of Student Affairs or as otherwise granted under applicable law, regulation or policy.

(5) ACTIVITY AND SERVICE (A&S) FEES FUND MANAGEMENT.

(a) Purpose.

1. To assure full and complete implementation of Federal and State of Florida law and compliance with all other applicable laws, policies and regulations; and

2. To facilitate effective interaction between the University and Student Government in the allocation and expenditure of funds derived from A&S Fees.

(b) All A&S Fees shall be maintained in accounts kept by the FAU Controller’s Office. All contracts and purchases shall be made in accordance with University regulations and policies and all appointments and payments of personnel shall be made in accordance with University personnel and payment procedures.
(c) All Student Government purchases, contracts, expenditures and disbursements must be reviewed and approved by the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee.

(d) At the end of each University fiscal year, unexpended A&S Fees shall be carried over and remain in the A&S Fees account for reallocation by Student Government in the subsequent fiscal year.

(e) The authority and responsibility to determine the allocation and expenditure of A&S funds initially rests with Student Government, subject to the right of the University President or his/her designee to veto any allocation or expenditure. Furthermore, Student Government shall be prohibited from:
   1. Negotiating contractual agreements without prior authorization.
   2. Deviating from laws, regulations, and procedures pertaining to budgeting, allocation and/or expenditure of public funds of the State of Florida.
   3. Hiring, supervising, or terminating Student Government Student personnel without the approval of the Vice President for Student Affairs.
   4. Making operational decisions for, or on behalf of, a University department, school or college or other unit outside of Student Government.

(f) The University Inspector General office shall make arrangements for audits of all accounts which receive and/or expend A&S Fees.

(g) Reserve Accounts.

   1. Campus Recreation and Student Union facilities will be required to maintain a Facility Reserve Account for repair, replacement, and renovation of physical plant, furniture/equipment, and budgetary emergencies. A minimum annual amount and policies for these accounts will be established by Student Government statutes.

   2. Other Campus Recreation programs and/or Student Unions or Student Activity Centers on the Broward or Jupiter Campus will be required to maintain a Facility Reserve Account for repair, replacement, and renovation of physical plant, furniture/equipment, and budgetary emergencies. A minimum annual amount and policies for these accounts will be established by Student Government statutes.

   3. The Vice President for Student Affairs’ Office will be required to maintain a University wide reserve account for A&S fees. This reserve will be utilized for cash flow needs, enrollment shortfalls, and budgetary emergencies. A minimum annual amount and policies for these accounts will be established by Student Government statutes.

(6) GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.

   (a) Student Government and Registered Student Organizations are under the jurisdiction of the FAU Division of Student Affairs. The responsibility for establishing and enforcing policy concerning Student Government, Registered Student Organizations and their respective activities, including the requirement that they function in accordance with their constitutions, statutes and bylaws (if any), is vested in the FAU Division of Student Affairs. Student Government and
all Registered Student Organizations are subject to the policies, procedures, rules and regulations governing or promulgated by the University and/or the Florida Board of Governors, including but not limited to the Student Code of Conduct, Code of Academic Integrity, Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug policies, Anti-hazing Policy, and all requirements contained in the Registered Student Organization Manual and Student Government Accounting and Budget Office Manual.

(b) Student Government’s and each Registered Student Organization’s purposes and activities shall comply with applicable provisions of the United States Constitution; Federal, State and local laws; the Constitution of the State of Florida; rules, policies, procedures and regulations of the Florida Board of Governors and Florida Atlantic University; and all requirements contained in the Registered Student Organization Manual or otherwise required by Student Involvement & Leadership. The purposes and activities of Student Government and all Registered Student Organizations shall also comply with the constitutions of the Student Government and the particular Registered Student Organization, respectively. Student Government, Registered Student Organizations and their Student Officers and members are responsible and accountable for all actions of Student Government and such Registered Student Organizations, respectively. Any violation under this section by Student Government, any Registered Student Organization or its Student Officers or members may subject the Student Government, Registered Student Organization and its Student Officers and members to disciplinary action under the FAU Student Code of Conduct. Any violation by a Registered Student Organization or its Student Officers or members shall render the Registered Student Organization’s recognition subject to review and possible cancellation or revocation.

(c) The University does not provide insurance to Student Government or Registered Student Organizations or its Student Officers or members.

(d) Neither Registered Student Organizations, Student Government nor Students may enter into agreements or contracts which purport to bind the University for any purpose.

(e) The University reserves the right to register all Registered Student Organizations and maintain current information on each Registered Student Organization, its Student Officers, members or authorized representatives, its purpose and its advisor, including social fraternities and sororities. Student Involvement & Leadership serves as the University registrant of all Registered Student Organizations.

(f) It is the policy of Florida Atlantic University that Student Government and Registered Student Organizations must be in full compliance with all applicable Federal and State nondiscrimination and equal opportunity laws, orders and regulations. Neither Student Government nor Registered Student Organizations shall discriminate against a Student Officer, member or prospective member on any prohibited basis identified in FAU Regulation 5.010, except if specifically exempted by law. Student Government and Registered Student Organizations shall be open to all currently enrolled FAU Students, except if specifically exempted by law.
PRIVILEGES OF REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.
Registered Student Organizations recognized by the FAU Division of Student Affairs may be granted certain privileges as approved by the Division of Student Affairs or as otherwise granted under applicable law, regulation or policy. These privileges are described in the Registered Student Organization Manual.

PROCEDURE FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATION.
(a) Statement of Intent to Organize: Interest Groups shall file, within the first six weeks of the fall or spring semester, or within the first three weeks of the summer semester, a Statement of Intent to Organize form with Student Involvement & Leadership on the campus on which they wish to organize.
   1. After submitting the completed form to Student Involvement & Leadership, and receiving confirmation that they are an Interest Group, the group may then hold and advertise meetings on campus, as well as be granted privileges as outlined in the Registered Student Organization Manual. This is considered provisional status.
   2. Provisional status is granted for six weeks following the filing of the Statement of Intent to Organize, during which time the Interest Group shall submit an Official Petition for Registration.
   3. Failure to submit an Official Petition for Registration within the six week provisional period shall result in the loss of provisional status. At this point, the Interest Group will not be able to function as an Interest Group and will no longer be entitled to the privileges associated with such status.

(b) Official Petition for Registration: The Official Petition for Registration of an Interest Group must be filed within the six week period of provisional status. The Official Petition for Registration shall include:
   1. The names, signatures and FAU Student ID numbers of two (2) currently enrolled, degree seeking founding Students.
   2. The names, signatures and Student ID numbers of at least 10 currently enrolled, degree seeking FAU Students, including Student Officers who are members of the Organization. The two (2) founding Students may be included within this 10 Student requirement.
   3. The Student Organization’s Constitution. All Registered Student Organizations are required to have a constitution, as further described in the Registered Student Organization Manual. The constitution may include bylaws. The constitution should only be changed through a clearly defined amendment process. Student Involvement & Leadership must review all constitutions, and bylaws for compliance with University Regulations and Policies.
   4. The name, telephone number, and FAU email address of the Registered Student Organization’s advisor. The advisor must be a full-time faculty or AMP/SP staff member employed by Florida Atlantic University.
   5. If the Registered Student Organization is affiliated with an off-campus organization, the constitution of such organization must also be filed.
(c) Registered Student Organization Status: When all of the above documents have been submitted to reviewed and processed by Student Involvement & Leadership, the Interest Group may be granted Registered Student Organization status and may be eligible for the privileges set out in this regulation and the Registered Student Organization Manual. The Interest Group will be notified in writing by Student Involvement & Leadership of its recognition or, in cases of denial, the reasons for denial. In cases of denial, the petitioning Interest Group may submit an appeal in writing to the Dean of Students or designee within five (5) business days.

(9) RE-REGISTRATION OF AN EXISTING REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATION.
Registered Student Organizations must re-register annually. Registered Student Organizations must also immediately notify Student Involvement & Leadership if their Student Officers and/or advisor change, and are responsible for notifying Student Involvement & Leadership of any updates or changes in the operations of the Registered Student Organization.

Registered Students Organizations are required to comply with the following in order to be satisfactorily re-registered:

Spring Semester Requirement
(a) Complete the online re-registration process, including submitting an updated and a full Student roster with a minimum of 10 currently enrolled, degree seeking FAU Student members, including at least two Student Officers.

Fall Semester Requirement
(a) Two Student Officers must attend the annual Student Leadership Conference hosted by the Division of Student Affairs.
(b) Two Student Officers must attend the annual Hazing Prevention Summit hosted by the Division of Student Affairs.
(c) Two Student Officers must complete the online Registered Student Organization Training.
(d) Two Student Officers must complete the Fiscal Certification Training if the Registered Student Organization is funded through A&S fees.
(e) The advisor to the Registered Student Organization must attend the annual advisor training hosted by the Division of Student Affairs.

Failure of the Registered Student Organization to comply with the requirements for the spring semester will result in the loss of the organization’s registration status at the end of the spring semester. Failure of the Registered Student Organization to comply with the requirements for the fall semester will result in the loss of the organization’s registration status in October. A Registered Student Organization that has lost its registration status will no longer be able to function as a Registered Student Organization and will forfeit its University privileges. A Registered Student Organization that has lost its registration
status and desires to regain its registration status must comply with the procedures for the Formation of a New Registered Student Organization, as described above.

(10) QUALIFICATIONS FOR STUDENT OFFICERS IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) All currently enrolled, degree seeking FAU Students may be eligible to be Student Officers at FAU, provided such Students meet the requirements of this Regulation and the constitutions/bylaws of Student Government or the applicable Registered Student Organization.

(b) Candidates for Student Officer positions must meet the minimum eligibility requirements as stated in this regulation prior to election or appointment.

(c) The Dean of Students and/or Student Involvement & Leadership will verify eligibility of all elected and appointed Student Officers during the first two weeks of the fall, spring, and summer semesters for the elected and appointed Student Officers.

(d) Students who do not meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in this Regulation will be deemed ineligible to serve as Student Officers.

(e) The privilege of representing the University carries with it the obligation to set a high standard of behavior. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the University President to ensure that Student representatives do not continue to represent the University, when, due to their misconduct, such participation would reflect poorly on the University.

(f) To be eligible to run and/or hold elected or appointed Student Officer positions, a Student must meet the following University standards. These standards are separate from and in addition to any other standards that Student Government or a Registered Student Organization may set for itself, and emphasize the necessary balance between academics and student involvement, as described in the University’s mission statement. To this end, in order for a Florida Atlantic University Student to be eligible to run and/or hold elected or appointed Student Officer positions, a Student must meet the following minimum standards:

1. General Provisions for All Undergraduate and Graduate Students.
   a. Students may not be on academic or student conduct probation, unless an exemption is granted by the Dean of Students Office.
   b. Student Officers must be currently enrolled degree seeking Students.
   c. Students who do not otherwise meet the requirements of this section but who have received approval from the Dean of Students or his/her designee to have a reduced course load, or other waiver(s) of these standards are eligible to hold Student Officer positions.
   d. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, Students in their last semester before graduation are eligible to hold Student Officer positions if they are enrolled for the required number of credits needed for graduation that semester. This provision shall only apply for one term.

2. Undergraduate Students.
a. Students must be enrolled a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours in the fall and spring semesters. For the summer semester, a Student need not be currently enrolled to remain eligible to hold a Student Officer position, but must demonstrate intent to return in the fall semester by being registered for a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours in the fall semester.

b. Students must maintain a 2.5 overall (cumulative) grade point average and not be on academic or student conduct probation. These requirements apply to Summer Term, if attended.

3. Graduate Students.
   a. Students must be enrolled a minimum of six (6) credit hours in the fall and spring semesters. For the summer semester, a Student need not be currently enrolled to remain eligible to hold office/position, but must demonstrate intent to return in the fall semester by being registered for a minimum of six (6) credit hours in the fall semester.
   b. Students must maintain a 3.25 cumulative grade point average and not be on academic or student conduct probation. These requirements apply to Summer Term, if attended.

   a. At the time of the Student Government Declaration of Candidacy deadline for Student Body President and Vice President, the Student must have already been admitted into a degree program at FAU for the full term of office sought. In order to run for the offices of Student Body President and Vice President, the candidate must be academically eligible to serve his/her entire term in the same degree seeking status (undergraduate or graduate) in which he/she declared candidacy. If a Student is elected as an undergraduate the Student must be eligible to complete their entire term as an undergraduate student. If a Student is elected as a graduate the Student must be eligible to complete their entire term as a graduate student.
   b. The Students holding the Student Government offices of Student Body President, Vice President, Campus Governor and Student Court Justice must maintain an overall (cumulative) and previous term FAU grade point average of 2.7 or higher for undergraduate Students or 3.25 or higher for graduate Students and not be on academic or student conduct probation. These requirements apply to Summer Term, if attended.
   c. The offices of Student Body President and Vice President may only be held by currently enrolled, degree seeking undergraduate Students with a minimum of 30 credit hours completed at Florida Atlantic University or by currently enrolled, degree seeking Graduate Students with a minimum of 9 graduate credit hours completed at Florida Atlantic University.
d. The Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Campus Governor, Chief Justice, Associate Justices, Speaker of the House, and Student Government Program Directors must be degree-seeking, currently enrolled Students and may serve in the same position or office for a maximum of two (2) terms (two academic years) during the academic career of such Student. All other Student Officers of Student Government, including but not limited to House of Representatives, Student Government Program Associate Director, Assistant Directors and Coordinators, must be degree-seeking, currently enrolled Students and may hold the same position or office for a maximum of four (4) terms (four academic years) during the academic career of such Student. A Student’s academic career includes his/her undergraduate, graduate, and professional course work.

e. Upon election and throughout their term of office, the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President may not hold any other employment (on or off-campus), or serve in any other elected or appointed position within Student Government or any Registered Student Organization.

(f) A Request for Review of Ineligibility. Students who do not meet the eligibility requirements to hold elected or appointed Student Officer positions in Student Government or any Registered Student Organization shall receive written notification from Student Involvement & Leadership or his/her designee. Students may seek review of their ineligibility as follows:

1. A request for review under this Regulation must be submitted in writing by the affected Student to the Dean of Students Office within three (3) business days after notification of ineligibility. Students can submit their request through the Dean of Students website using the online form located at http://www.fau.edu/dean/sleappeal.php.

2. The request must state the grounds upon which the Student seeks review of his/her ineligibility. The Student may provide additional supporting documentation to support his/her eligibility by delivering those documents to the Dean of Students Office for consideration within three (3) business days after the notification of ineligibility.

3. Within five (5) business days after the request has been received, the Dean of Students or his/her designee shall render a decision on the request for review and shall notify the Student of that decision in writing.

4. Once the decision of the Dean of Students has been rendered, the Student has the right to appeal that decision. A request for appeal must be submitted in writing to the Dean of Students Office within three (3) business days of the decision by the Dean of Students. Students can submit an appeal through the Dean of Students website using the online form located at http://www.fau.edu/dean/sleappeal.php. Failure to
submit a timely appeal will result in immediate relinquishment of the office.

5. Once that appeal is received, an Eligibility Appeals Board shall be convened and the Student will be notified in writing of the date, time and location of the hearing. The Eligibility Appeals Board hearing will be scheduled no earlier than two (2) business days after this notification.

6. The Eligibility Appeals Board shall consist of two Students, one faculty member, and one Student Affairs staff member. The Student Affairs staff member will be chair of the Board. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall appoint this Board as needed. The Eligibility Appeals Board members are selected through an annual application and training process.

7. The Eligibility Appeals Board shall consider the Student’s appeal, including any documentation provided in support of that appeal and shall provide the Student with an opportunity to make a statement at the hearing.

8. Within two (2) business days after the hearing, the Eligibility Appeals Board will provide a recommendation on the Student’s Appeal to the Vice President for Student Affairs, who shall render a final decision on the Student’s eligibility. The Vice President for Student Affairs may accept or deny the Board’s recommendations and will issue his/her final decision in writing within a reasonable period of time after receiving the recommendation. The student will remain in his/her Student Officer’s position pending the final decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

9. The decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs is final.

(11) STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATION EVENT REGISTRATION.

All events and activities of Student Government and Registered Student Organizations must be registered with the Student Union Administration Office on the applicable campus and must comply with policies and procedures set forth in the Registered Student Organization Manual and Student Event Planning Policy and Procedures. Event registration by Student Government and Registered Student Organizations does not constitute sponsorship or endorsement of the event by Florida Atlantic University.

(12) SUSPENSION OF A REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATION.

(a) A Registered Student Organization’s registration may be suspended for any of the following reasons:

1. Violation of University regulations, policies and procedures and/or State, Federal or local laws or any other violation of the provisions of this Regulation. In the event the violation rises to the level of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, FAU Regulation 4.007 will apply to the suspension. The procedures contained in Regulation 4.007 will govern this process.
2. Failure to maintain a membership of 10 currently enrolled degree seeking FAU Students.
3. Failure to pay debts or other financial obligations incurred by the Registered Student Organization.
4. The international, national, regional or local organization revokes the Registered Student Organization’s charter or denies affiliation.
5. Non-compliance with the Registered Student Organization’s registration procedures, statutes and constitution requirements.
6. Falsification of any registration information.
7. Failure to meet the requirements in the Registered Student Organization Manual.

(b) For suspensions other than those processed in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, Student Involvement & Leadership will send written notice of the suspension to the Registered Student Organization President and advisor. Procedures for appeal of suspension of a Registered Student Organization registration for issues not related to the Student Code of Conduct are as follows:

1. The Registered Student Organization may appeal the suspension decision in writing to the Dean of Students within five (5) business days after notification of suspension.
2. The Dean of Students will review the basis for Student Involvement & Leadership’s decision but will not be required to initiate a de novo factual investigation.
3. Notwithstanding the above, the Dean of Students may, but is not required to direct that further facts be gathered or that additional remedial action be taken by the Registered Student Organization. The Dean of Students may also decide to uphold or overturn the decision of Student Involvement & Leadership.
4. The Dean of Students shall provide the Registered Student Organization written notice of his/her decision. The Dean of Students’ action shall constitute final agency action and there will be no further appeals within the University.