University of Maine
Division of Student Affairs

Relationship Agreement Between the University of Maine and Student Organizations

Introduction
Student organizations at the University of Maine (UMaine) are a vital and integral part of student life and students' UMaine experience. These organizations augment the quality of student life, contribute to educational and personal development, and provide outstanding co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for the student body. The overall goals of student organizations are many and include providing structured opportunities for improving scholarship and academic performance, exercising leadership, creating a sense of community, developing character, and providing excellent service and social interaction experiences.

Recognition of Student Organizations
It is the intent of UMaine and UMSG INC., to create a two-step student organization recognition process. It will be the responsibility of UMaine (specifically the Division of Student Affairs) to pre-approve groups seeking recognition from UMSG INC. Groups would submit their application/documentation first to the Director of Campus Activities & Student Engagement (Director) or appointed designee. After approval from the Director or his/her designee, the organization's application/documentation will be forwarded to UMSG INC. for its review. Approval is needed by both the Director and UMSG INC. in order for a student organization to become a UMaine recognized student organization. Otherwise, the group, although including UMaine students, is not acting under the auspices of UMaine.

The specific criteria for groups to become recognized UMaine student organizations will continue to be outlined in the Student Handbook and in the Student Organization Administrative Policies (SOAP) generated by UMSG INC. The criteria and forms are those in effect at the time the student group requests approval. A copy of the current relevant sections is attached by way of reference.

Liability Protections of Student Organizations
An approved and recognized UMaine student organization is provided the liability protections of UMaine; however, the organization or its members must be participating in an approved activity or event, and the organization and its members must be acting in good faith with reasonable belief that the action was in the best interest of UMaine and was not knowingly unlawful or against UMaine policy. Nevertheless, the UMaine protections do not extend to separate legal entities, including but not limited to UMSG INC, sororities or fraternities, and their respective members while acting within the scope or on behalf of that organization; such entities are responsible for their own liability and are required to have appropriate liability protections in place to cover the entity and the entity's members.

UMaine does not provide Liability Insurance coverage or Physical Damage Insurance coverage (Collision or Comprehensive) for non-UMaine vehicles, including personal vehicles or vehicles rented by a student organization. If an organization member uses a personal vehicle for a student organization activity or event, that person's own vehicle insurance will be responsible for any insurance claims. For rental vehicles, the student organization should purchase insurance through the rental car company. UMaine cannot reimburse an employee, student, another private owner, or their insurer for any deductible or liability claim paid by their auto
required from time to time. Student organizations are strongly encouraged to take advantage of web-based support provided to them by UMSG INC and UMaine.

As with all UMaine students, the Student Conduct Code applies to recognized student organizations and their members. All policies, procedures, rules, and regulations of UMaine and of UMSG INC apply. Failure to comply with the Student Conduct Code, UMaine and/or UMSG INC policies, procedures, rules, and regulations, including the SOAP document and Student Handbook, will be handled and addressed as outlined in those documents.

If either UMSG INC or UMaine remove recognition (de-recognize), or fail to recognize or re-recognize a student organization that student organization is no longer deemed a recognized UMaine student organization. Unrecognized student organizations are not afforded the privileges or opportunities of recognized student organizations immediately upon de-recognition and/or failure to recognize or re-recognize (see Student Handbook and/or SOAP document for details). Student organizations can appeal the decision to de-recognize them, and/or failure to recognize or re-recognize them using the process outlined in the particular document (i.e., Student Handbook, SOAP document, Student Conduct Code) that was used to de-recognize, and/or not recognize/re-recognize them. Appeals of corrective action decisions will be governed by the procedures outlined in the appropriate documents under which authority to take the action was taken.

Social Functioning and Programming
The Office of Campus Activities and Student Engagement have tremendous experience and expertise in planning events (e.g., workshops, conferences, dances, speakers, socials, etc.). In order to avoid complications with liability insurance and coverage, student organizations should register their event with Campus Activities at least 72 hours prior to the event. If alcohol is desired at the event, groups should allow at least an additional 48 hours for registration. These forms are available in the CASE office located on the lower level of the Memorial Union.

Agreement, Support and Signatures
We agree to abide by all provisions of this Relationship Agreement Between UMaine and ______________________________________(Name of Organization).

President of Organization (printed) __________________________________ Signature of President of Organization __________________________ Date __________________________

Vice President of Organization (printed) __________________________________ Signature of Vice President of Organization __________________________ Date __________________________

Treasurer of Organization (printed) __________________________________ Signature of Treasurer of Organization __________________________ Date __________________________

Director of CASE or designee (printed) __________________________________ Signature of the Director of CASE or designee __________________________ Date __________________________

Advisor of Organization (printed) __________________________________ Signature of Advisor of Organization __________________________ Date __________________________