

**Student Activities Committee**  
**October, 16, 2020 - Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:**

- Jody Thompson (Faculty, Chair) - P
- David MacNair (Faculty, Secretary) - P
- Mike Evans (Faculty) - P
- Bette Finn (Faculty) - P
- Christie Stewart (Faculty) - P
- Joshua Eastwood (Undergraduate Student) - P
- Joyce Karanouh-Schuler (Undergraduate Student) - P
- Jay Mckinney (Graduate Student) - NP
- Yousuf Bootwala (Graduate Student) - P
- Lea Harris (Graduate Student) - NP
- Victoria Redmon (Student Organizations Coordinator) - P
- Quinn Foster (Director of Student Organizations) - NP
- Gerome Stephens (Director for Center for Student Engagement) - P

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Called to Order – 10:36am
2. No Constitutions Considered
3. GT Legal Consultation
  - a. We must be viewpoint neutral and content neutral approval or denial
    - i. CSE looks at a constitution, then passes along to SAC
      1. Role is to make sure they meet all policy requirements
      2. Does the charter go through CSE? Can it be bypassed?
        - a. Organization isn't required to go through CSE, but most do
        - b. Legally we can require the organization to go to CSE first, but leaving the flexibility for intentionally bypassing CSE can allow SAC to have a meaningful conversation with the organization
    - ii. If SAC sees a problem, SAC should consult GT Legal
      1. SAC makes the decision referencing the GT legal consultation
    - iii. The membership of a religious organization cannot be limited to people who believe according to organization beliefs, but the leadership positions can be
      1. Can certain members be denied from running for office (or removed from office) based on their religious beliefs?
        - a. Yes, though has never happened
  - b. Are student organizations legal entities?
    - i. No, they are a group of people recognized similarly to a department at GT
      1. Can't sign contracts, not incorporated
      2. GT Organizations are part of GT
        - a. GT recognizes the student organization, but legally it doesn't exist

3. GT owns the goods, but student organizations can manage them (as individuals working as part of a non-legal group)
    - a. A non-legal entity can purchase something (like a department), but when it needs to be registered by a legal entity (eg. car) it needs to belong to GT as the legal entity
      - i. Exceptions can be made for external organizations partnering with GT (ex. Yellow Jacket Flying Club)
    - b. Can GT or a department have a legally binding MOU with a student organization?
      - i. No, a non-legal entity cannot have a legally binding MOU (neither department or student organization)
        1. This would be GT creating a legal agreement with itself, which is meaningless
      - ii. MOU can be created with individuals
        1. Hesitate to enter into agreements with individual students, don't want to make students liable
      - iii. A non-legal MOU is a reminder of what was agreed upon, and can be used by OSI for enforcement
        1. If you're not in good standing, we will no longer provide resources or advising
        2. A record keeping instrument
  4. Benefits to Organizations for being registered
    - a. Reserve space, getting funding, getting advising
    - b. Cannot use the trademark, but not sure. Student orgs cannot freely use or sell.
  5. Benefits to Tech for Organizations being registered
    - a. Ways to learn, organization for events, development of leadership
  6. Advisor's Role
    - a. Guide the students on compliance with GT policies and ensure not doing something dangerous
    - b. Be a resource to the student organization
      - i. Can be a coach, can just provide minimal interaction
  7. Do not need to be registered with state of Georgia
    - a. An external organization can exist
      - i. Students need to follow GT policies regardless of external affiliation
      - ii. External organization can interact on behalf of the RSO
      - iii. Student organization needs to be run by the students
      - iv. An MOU (legal or not) can be created with the external organization (partnership)
- c. What can SAC consider during the chartering process
- i. Does the organization adhere to policy

- d. Students sued GT, not the student organization
- e. SGA funding
  - i. Cannot be based on utility of the organization or its events/purpose to the general student body
  - ii. First come, first served
  - iii. Need to identify additional structure to allow distinction for funding priorities
- f. Reasons need to exist to deny access to resource (eg. department restricting students or an RSO/DRSO from a space, materials, etc.)
  - i. MOU can be upheld through an OSI case
- 4. Consent Agenda
  - a. Animation Club – E-Mail Vote
  - b. Consent Agenda Approved by Unanimous Consent
- 5. Moved to Adjourn
  - a. Meeting adjourned – 11:31am