

Risk Management Policies for Student Organizations

The Texas State Legislature has enacted a bill (House Bill 2639) relating to risk management programs for members and advisors of student organizations at public and private postsecondary educational institutions. The bill states that “At least once during each academic year, a postsecondary educational institution shall provide a risk management program for members of student organizations registered at the institution.”

HB 2639 lists seven (7) specific areas of risk management that are to be addressed with student organization representatives and organization advisors. Outlined below are those specific areas required for review along with Southwestern University’s official position regarding each risk management concern.

The information provided below will be shared with representatives of all student organizations at the mandatory New Officer Workshop held this fall. In addition to student review it is required that each organization advisor review the information included here. Once the document has been reviewed by the organization advisor(s) it should be signed and returned to the Office of Student Activities.

(1) possession and use of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs, including penalties that may be imposed for possession or use;

“The University forbids on-campus use or possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia prohibited by federal or Texas narcotics laws,” (pg 46 Student Handbook).

“The University expects that each individual and group within the Southwestern University community will comply with all applicable laws and regulations pertaining to the possession, use, and distribution of alcoholic beverages,” (pg 40 student Handbook).

“The University complies with and upholds all federal, state, and local laws and regulations that regulate or prohibit the possession, use, and/or distribution of alcoholic beverages,” (pg 40 Student Handbook).

A guide of possible sanctions regarding alcohol offenses may be found on pages 44-45 of the Student Handbook.

(2) hazing;

“The University does not permit hazing, which is defined as any behavior which can do mental or bodily harm to any person, or which is offensive to the dignity of an individual,” (pg 47 Student Handbook).

(3) sexual abuse and harassment;

“Sexual harassment in any manner or form, including sexual harassment based on sexual orientation, is expressly prohibited. the term “sexual harassment” means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature,” (pg. 101 Student Handbook).

(4) fire and other safety issues, including the possession and use of a firearm or other weapon or of an explosive device;

“The possession of firearms, other weapons, or fireworks on campus is prohibited. Texas Law (Penal Code – 46.03) prohibits the possession and carrying of weapons onto an educational institution (public or private) by those other than people with proper authorization,” (pg 47 Student Handbook).

(5) travel to a destination outside the area in which the institution is located;

(6) behavior at parties and other events held by a student organization; and

“Southwestern University students are expected to adhere to levels of mature conduct away from campus. As students, they lose neither the rights nor responsibilities of citizenship. They will be responsible to civil authorities for any violations of civil/criminal law,” (pg 39 Student Handbook).

(7) adoption by a student organization of a risk management policy.

The Office of Student Activities encourages the development of an official risk management policy for all student organizations.

Please remove and return this portion to the Office of Student Activities.

Risk Management Policy Review Form 2009-2010

Organization Name

Date of Review

Advisor Signature