

Implementing Procedures for Non-Chartered Christian Organizations at Baylor

Introduction

Following the change in Baylor's policy related to religious organizations at Baylor, staff members in the Division of Student Life began developing implementation guidelines for the policy. These procedures are designed to help non-chartered Christian organizations more clearly understand how the University might treat these groups in a cooperative and friendly fashion.

Board of Regents Policy on Religious Organizations at Baylor¹

Baylor University is controlled by an all-Baptist board of regents and is operated within the Christian-oriented aims and ideals of Baptists. Baylor also is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, a cooperative association of autonomous Texas Baptist churches. As such, Baptist Student Ministries is the chartered and officially recognized religious organization of Baylor University. Baylor may not charter or grant official recognition to other denominational or non-denominational groups, but instead will, as appropriate, treat these groups in a cooperative and friendly fashion as they strive to minister to those members of the Baylor student body who are either members of other denominations or who seek Christian fellowship in a general way.²

¹HISTORICAL NOTE: Prior policy required such organizations to agree "in principle (as mutually determined by the organization and the University) with the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention May 9, 1963" in order to be granted a charter or to be officially recognized.

²In adopting this policy, it is the intention of the Board of Regents that other denominational and non-denominational groups chartered or officially recognized by Baylor University as of May 5, 2000, the effective date of this policy, will continue to receive all of the privileges presently enjoyed by these organizations for as long as they remain in good standing with the University.

Chartered Religious Organizations Operating on May 5, 2000

Asians for Christ
Baptist Student Ministries
Baptist Student Ministries, Louise Herrington Nursing School
Baylor Religious Hour Choir
Campus Crusade for Christ
Face to Face Student Ministry
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Greek Council for Christ
Heavenly Voices

What it Means to Be Cooperative and Friendly with Non-Chartered Christian Organizations

- The University will allow organizations to post flyers on campus. Flyers must be submitted to the Department of Student Activities for approval prior to posting (as is the procedure for all chartered student organizations).
- The University will allow organizations to chalk notices on sidewalks around campus. Notices must be approved through the Department of Student Activities (as is the procedure for all chartered student organizations).
- The University will provide a campus mailbox (in the BDSC) free of charge for use by the organization. Approval may be denied based on the lack of necessary resources.

- The University will share information about the organizations through main contact points for students (such as the Dean for University Ministries Office and the Department of Student Activities). Thus, students who contact these offices asking for contact information on organizations will have current information available to them. In addition, the organizations may be listed in the Student Handbook and the Welcome Week notebook under the churches and religious organizations directory.
- The University will allow one event or activity on campus per organization per semester. The event will be limited to making students aware of the ministry – e.g., a Dr Pepper trailer, an information table, or the like — with the emphasis on sharing information about the ministry instead of a ministry event or worship service. These events must go through the regular approval process in order to achieve this benefit (i.e., an *Application for Organization Event* must be completed and approved), and all applicable university policies must be followed.
- The University will provide Web Home Page access through the Dean for University Ministries website.

General guidelines applying to these pages include:

- The Dean for University Ministries must request the Web Home Page using the appropriate application form. After the organization develops its Web Home Page it is submitted to the Dean for University Ministries who is responsible for reviewing and approving its contents.
- All usage of an organization's Web Home Page is to be in accordance with Baylor policies including the Policies for Information System Usage and the Facilities Use Policies.
- Approval of a Web Home Page may be denied based on the lack of necessary resources.

Additional guidelines applying to these pages include:

- Web pages cannot be used for commercial purposes, including hot links to commercial sites.
- Since a Baylor "facility" (the web server) is being used to store Web Home Pages, these pages should not contain any material that would embarrass or bring discredit to the Baptist General Convention of Texas or to Baylor in the view of its constituencies (Rule 3, Campus Facilities Use and Campus Solicitation Policy of the Student Handbook).
- Organizations must abide by copyright laws when developing Web Home Pages.
- Baylor graphics and images are owned by Baylor University and cannot be altered in any way.

Violation of these policies may result in the organization losing its privilege to have a Web Home Page.

Questions

Questions about these implementing procedures may be directed to the Director of Student Activities (710-2371) or the Dean for University Ministries (710-3517).

Revised October 5, 2001