MU Recognized Student Organization Advisor Agreement 2019

Role/Purpose

Advisors of Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) play a role in assisting students in the mission and goals of the organization. The University of Missouri – Columbia requires all RSOs to have an advisor.

Understanding Recognized Student Organization’s Relationship to MU

Recognized Student Organizations are autonomous, student-run entities that succeed and fail on their own. While recognized by the University, RSOs are not considered official agents of MU and cannot enter into agreements on the University’s behalf. Similarly, the University may not enter into agreements on the RSO’s behalf.

The purpose of recognizing a student organization at the University of Missouri is to provide structures through which students may freely associate in a common purpose or mission that unifies them to form an organization. Student organizations are student-centered, student-driven, and student-led. Participation is voluntary. Control by any outside entity, public or private, or non-student of the university is not permitted.

Student organization activities and events are not University activities or events; activities and events held by student organizations are not sponsored or approved by the University. Members, participants, and officers are not considered University volunteers, agents, or employees of MU. Student organizations are considered independent entities.

Requirements to be an Advisor

Any .75 FTE University of Missouri-Columbia faculty or staff member can be a RSO advisor.

Responsibilities

The following is a list of responsibilities required of all Recognized Student Organization advisors:

- Promote the University’s core values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery, and Excellence.
- Act as a University representative to the RSO
  - Have knowledge of institutional policies and procedures. Advise organization officers on adhering to these policies, including those regarding alcohol, contracts, and purchasing.
- Inform the organization of its relationship to MU and help ensure the organization is not violating their relationship agreement with MU.

Questions or concerns regarding this document should be discussed with the Office of Student Engagement.
• Inform student leaders of annual requirements and complete an annual MU Recognized Student Organization Advisor Agreement every academic year.
• Allow the organization to thrive or decline on its own merits; take no action unless requested.
• Meet mandatory training requirements established by the University and/or the Dean of Students.

Recognized Student Organizations advisors on campus may NOT do the following:

• Make purchases on behalf of the organization from the organization’s financial account without prior approval from the Vice Provost for Student Affairs and supervisor. This includes travel and travel-related expenses. See BPPM 2:037.
• Remove a student from the organization or a position.
• Appoint or approve a student to the organization or a position.
• Provide tax advice or medical advice.
• Sign an agreement on behalf of the RSO or University.
• Set curriculum, rules, or policies the RSO is required to follow.
• Participating in the student organization's activities outside of attending meetings is allowed; however, liability and protection as provided under CRR 490.010 may not apply.
• Anything that would imply the University owns or controls the actions of a RSO.

Recognized Student Organizations are independent and should succeed and fail on their own without advisors stepping in and doing the work on behalf of students. The following are examples of responsibilities that fall on the students of the student organization to complete:

• Establish goals and vision for the organization.
• Provide officer transition and training.
• Coordinate, schedule, and run all organization meetings.
• Ensure all annual requirements are completed.
• Follow all local, state, and federal laws.

Please detail advisor expectations for your organization below:

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Questions or concerns regarding this document should be discussed with the Office of Student Engagement.
Liability and Protections Statement

Employees are eligible for defense and protection only if they are determined to be operating in the scope of their employment and within the rules and policies of the University as outlined in CRR 490.010. Any University employee who serves as a RSO advisor may be eligible for defense and protection as described in CRR 490.010.

Length of Assignment

RSO advisors assume their role for one academic year. Advisor continuity is desirable; however, advisor assignments are renewed each academic year and are subject to both the advisor’s and student organization’s approval.

Replacement

Occasionally a RSO advisor does not meet the expectations of the organization or fails to fulfill the responsibilities of an advisor. If the organization feels their advisor is ineffective, the Office of Student Engagement is available to discuss the problem(s) or issue(s) involving their advisor. A staff member will be available discuss the situation with the officer. All decisions on advisor selection or removal are up to the RSO.

Resignation

RSO advisors should notify the Office of Student Engagement when they decide to no longer serve as an advisor. Advisors should also inform the organization’s officers of the resignation and provide reasonable support in the transition of the advisor position. RSOs that do not have an advisor for more than 30 days will be placed on suspended status until an advisor is found.

Clery Act Information

According to Federal law, specifically, the Clery Act, the University of Missouri is required to annually disclose statistics concerning the occurrence of certain crimes reported to the local police agency or any official of the institution who has “significant responsibility for student and campus activities” (also known as “Campus Security Authorities”). The University of Missouri has designated RSO advisors as Campus Security Authorities with reporting obligations under the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act and University policy. RSO advisors must complete Cleary Act training annually.

Questions or concerns regarding this document should be discussed with the Office of Student Engagement.
Resources

The Office of Student Engagement and Organization Resource Group (ORG) extend their sincere appreciation in your agreement to serve as a RSO advisor for the 2019-2020 academic year. We value the time and expertise you will undoubtedly share with the organization and its members.

We commit to support you and the organization throughout the year by providing assistance with event planning, University processes, and conflict resolution. Further, we commit to assisting in the development of student leaders and the overall success of the organization. ORG provides training and other advisor resources in the areas above, as well as assist individually as requested.

- Guidelines for Recognized Student Organizations
- Office of Student Engagement
- Organization Resource Group (ORG)
- Office of Student Accountability & Support

Additional resources can be found at getinvolved.missouri.edu.

It is recommended that the organization’s leadership and advisor have a conversation about this document before signing. Discuss the needs of the organization and expectations of the organization and the advisor.

Organization: ___________________________________________________________

Advisor Name (Printed): __________________________________________________________

Advisor Signature: ________________ Date: ________________

President Name (Printed): __________________________________________________________

President Signature: ________________ Date: ________________

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