INTENT

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania is firmly committed to the belief that learning takes place in a wide variety of settings and under a wide variety of circumstances. Learning social skills and learning in the area of interpersonal relations are of a great importance. Many ethical and moral decisions are encountered while running a student organization, planning an event, or carrying out plans for activities, and often the decisions made and crises faced foster the skills vital for personal development and self-realization. The knowledge gained in this way is of comparable importance with the skills and information gained in the more "academic" setting. This policy defines the privileges gained and the recognition procedures for student organizations. Nothing in this policy may be taken to relieve students or student organizations from their obligations to obey all applicable laws and rules or otherwise relieve them of responsibility for themselves.

POLICY

Recognized student organizations are entitled to the University's cooperation and assistance in forms including but not necessarily limited to: (1) the use of Edinboro University facilities; (2) the use of student bulletin board space; (3) publicity of events and activities on all University calendars; (4) guidance and assistance in planning activities and events through the University Programming and Activities Office; and (5) help, advice, and assistance from the personnel in the Office of Student Development and the University Center.

PROCEDURE

Students are encouraged to develop organizations and interest groups according to the Procedures for Establishing Student Organizations and the Recognition Procedures set forth below.
A. APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION

1. In order to apply for recognition as a student organization, the organization seeking recognition must complete the procedures for establishing organizations. Upon completion, a copy of its background information and constitution as well as the constitution of any organization with which it has a national affiliation must be submitted to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the President of the Student Government Association. Any other information or materials reasonably requested by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs must also be provided.

2. Upon receipt of application for recognition:
   a. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs through the University Programming and Activities Office shall inform other administrative officers of the Student Affairs Division that an application for recognition has been made and shall make a copy of the organization's constitution(s) and a list of current officers available to them.
   b. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs shall inform the President that an application for recognition has been made and shall make a copy of the organization's constitution(s) and a list of current officers available to him/her. The President will indicate approval/disapproval of the constitution with appropriate comments, and will return the constitution to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.
   c. The President of the Student Government Association shall inform all members of the SGA that an application for recognition has been made, and shall make a copy of the organization's constitution(s) and a list of current officers available to all members of the Constitutional Review Committee which shall review the Constitution and make a recommendation to the SGA Congress at its next meeting.

B. APPROVAL OF RECOGNITION

1. At the first meeting of the Student Government Association following the application for recognition, provided that a period of five days has elapsed between the time of application and the date of the meeting, the Chairperson of the Constitutional Review Committee shall, as part of the committee report, present the constitution(s) and current list of officers to the SGA body. Unless objection is raised in the form of a formal motion to "deny recognition" the organization shall be considered approved by SGA. Recognition may only be denied where the proposed organization is formed for illegal purposes, will disrupt the ongoing activities of the University or its educational purpose, or where the proposed organization fails to abide by University policy, SGA rules and regulations, and/or the recognition process.

2. Should objection to the recognition of an organization be made, the question shall be considered and resolved by a majority vote of representatives of SGA at that same meeting.

3. After an organization has been approved by the Student Government Association, the Office of Student Affairs, as represented by the Vice President, shall, should it be opposed to the granting of the recognition have twenty (20) working days in which to issue an "objection to recognition". This objection must be sent to both the SGA and the organization applying for recognition. If no objection is forthcoming during this period, the
organization shall be immediately recognized on a provisional basis, until a written decision is made by the Vice President for Student Affairs, approving or disapproving recognition.

4. In the event that both the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Affairs, as represented by the Vice President, "object to recognition", recognition shall be denied without recourse to the appeals process of part C. In such cases, a written appeal may be filed with the Vice President for Student Affairs within twenty (20) days of the second objection.

C. APPEALS BOARD

In the event that the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Affairs do not concur regarding the granting of recognition, the question shall be referred for resolution to an Appeals Board composed of one (1) faculty member and one (1) administrator and three (3) students. The faculty member and administrator shall be chosen by the President of the University. The three (3) students shall be chosen in accord with the nominating procedures established by the Student Government Association. This board should meet and rule within a ten day period after request for appeal has been made, and its decision shall be final. Failure of the board to meet and rule within the ten day period does not automatically confer recognition, but the university, either through the Office of the President, or through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs should, in such a situation, try to expedite the matter.

D. RENEWAL OF RECOGNITION

To remain an "active" student organization on the campus with all rights and privileges outlined above, each organization must register its officers and advisor with the Office of Student Activities each September and whenever an election is held during the academic year. Failure to comply may result in the nullification of the recognition.

In addition, to remain "active," each organizational officer must attend a University presentation on hazing (a program available both Fall and Spring Semesters) which will include, but not be limited to information on the anti-hazing laws, University Policies/Procedures/Penalties on hazing; issues related to civil liability; positive "pledging activities"; and potential criminal penalties. Only failure of the University to offer the presentation will excuse attendance. Further, all pledging activities must be reviewed and patently offensive actions deleted by the advisor to the Inter-fraternity Council, or Panhellenic Council, or Assistant Director of Student Development/University Programming and Activities, whomever is appropriate.

Recognition of an organization should be reviewed on at least a revolving five year basis. The constitution of each organization must be presented by the student organization to the University Programming and Activities Office for review by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs prior to the expiration of the five year period when the constitution was initially approved or last reviewed. A review may, however, be initiated at any time, and more often than once every five years, if deemed necessary by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.
E. NULLIFICATION OF RECOGNITION

If it is felt that a recognized student organization has changed its purpose or method of operation so as to alter the essential nature of the organization as it was recognized, the Office of Student Affairs, by request of the Vice President, or the Student Government Association, by majority vote, may request a "review of recognition". This review shall be made by the Appeals Board. Should the board find that the organization in question has departed from the terms under which it was recognized it may vote to "nullify recognition" and after notice containing a statement of reasons, and after an opportunity for a hearing, the organization may, if a finding is made that such is warranted, be directed by the Office of Student Affairs to reapply for recognition.

F. CHANGES IN RECOGNITION PROCEDURES

The University reserves the right to issue, modify and void rules and regulations under which student organizations may: (a) apply for recognition; (b) be established; and (c) become recognized and, operate. If any such changes are contrary to the constitutions and/or the express or implied terms of the recognition of student organizations, the contrary portions of such constitutions, and/or the contrary express or implied terms of such recognition will be null and void, notwithstanding any prior approvals by the University. Provided, however, a student organization aggrieved by such action may apply to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for a hearing on the change in rules on the grounds that the change causes the organization an undue hardship, and/or on the grounds that the change was unreasonable. Unless the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs orders so, in writing, to the contrary, the mere action of appeal does not reinstate either recognition or any provision of a constitution pending the outcome of an appeal.

IV. GENERAL STANDARDS FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania is a multi-purpose, state-owned institution committed to the preservation and transmission of knowledge and human values. The University strives to foster in students an interest in aesthetic, social, and ethical values, and to encourage intellectual pursuits and personal development throughout life. It is committed to maintaining the flexibility necessary to meet the needs of a variety of student populations and the varying educational requirements prompted by changes in the society it serves. Edinboro University of Pennsylvania is dedicated to achieving excellence in teaching. The University recognizes the need to encourage research, creative activities, and community services commensurate with institutional resources and individual initiatives.

Student organizations are acknowledged as partners in the search for this goal, and their purposes and activities are to be consistent with it. The President of the University reserves the right, to the extent provided by law, of determining finally whether any organization proposed for recognition does or does not comport with the ideals and goals of the University.
Any recognized student organization of Edinboro University shall retain its status on campus according to the following guidelines:

A. DISCRIMINATION.

Every student organization recognized by the University is expected to be free to select its membership upon the basis of individual merit. Any student organization which selects its membership upon the basis of restrictive clauses dealing unlawfully with race, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or any other legally protected class, or affectional orientation, will be considered to be operating in conflict with University policy.

Every recognized student organization must submit a copy of its constitution (local and national), and the by-laws or other satisfactory information governing its operation to the Office of Student Affairs. The University will accept in good faith the provision of such constitutions and by-laws, indicating that the local organization is free to select members upon the basis of individual merit and the membership in the local organization is not governed by unlawful restrictive clauses.

Violation of this regulation should be immediately reported to the Director of Social Equity or the Director of Student Services for an investigation and possible disciplinary sanctions against the students and/or student organization. Should a student organization be judged in conflict with University policy in the selection of its members, the group will be directed to submit evidence that action has been or is being taken to remove such restrictive membership provisions: such as, a request for a waiver of the restriction from the national organization. Continued restriction of membership by constitutional requirements or other binding enactment contrary to University policy will result in withdrawal of University recognition of the student organization, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

B. HAZING.

No student organization or individual shall engage in or condone any form of hazing. Hazing shall include, but is not limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or threatening for the purpose of covering up any planned, threatened, attempted, or perpetrated prohibited act, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual. Any activity, as defined above, regardless of the individual's willingness to participate in the activity, for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in an organization will be considered hazing. Violation of this regulation should be reported immediately to the University Student Standards Office for investigation and possible disciplinary sanctions against the students and/or the organization including possible suspension and/or revocation of recognition.
C. ADVISOR.

Every student organization is required to have at least one advisor who is a full time employee of the University, or a non-employee as per the University-Related Advisorship Policy, and has been acknowledged by the University President as being the official advisor to the student organization. The University might not be obligated to provide a legal defense for self-appointed or otherwise unapproved advisors who are sued for acts or omissions related to advisement. The advisor, as a full time employee, serves as the organization's direct link with the University and its representative. In this role, the advisor assists in the University's mission by providing instruction and an educational experience as well as protecting the interests of the institution. The advisor cannot assume any obligation to monitor students' behavior so as to assume liability for protection of the general public or students from themselves or each other.

D. MEMBERSHIP.

The Edinboro University student membership must equal or outnumber the non-student membership. All offices or positions, except faculty or staff advisor, must be held by students.

E. FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES.

Through joint sponsorship by Edinboro University and various national and local social fraternities and sororities, certain chapters of these organizations have been established on the campus. Due to their common concerns and objectives, a degree of self-regulation of the chapters acting independently or through the Inter-fraternity Council and Panhellenic Council, will be encouraged and supported at all times. Membership in these organizations is defined by the regulations of the Interfraternity or Panhellenic Councils and must be in accord with University regulations.

F. STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION POLICIES.

Every student organization recognized by the University is expected to adhere to all policies and regulations promulgated by the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education. The failure to abide by such policies and regulations will result in appropriate University disciplinary action.