

Student Activities Policies and Procedures

Student organizations at ABAC exist to support the overall objectives of the college. Operating on the basis of voluntary participation and self-government, student organizations are an integral part of the college community, and as such are obligated to contribute to the academic attainment and general development of the individual student. Student organizations offer the individual an opportunity to broaden his/her environment and to make new friends. Skills and experiences obtained through membership in student organizations serve as a valuable supplement to the formal curricula. Recognition of a group or organization grants to that group the right to use College facilities and to identify themselves with the College. Organizations applying for recognition by the College will be evaluated on the manner in which their constitutional objectives support the overall objectives of the organization as well as ABAC and are in agreement with the policies of the Board of Regents. In all circumstances, the College reserves the right to take appropriate action against any student organization for violating individual organizational policies, the Student Code of Conduct, or institutional policies.

Recognition

An organization seeking recognition must submit the following information in writing to the Office of Student Life on the form furnished by that office:

1. Name of the organization
2. Explanation of any extra-campus affiliation (e.g., National Parent Organization)
3. Purpose(s) for organization (including explanation of why the organization is desirable on campus)
4. Qualifications for membership with non-discrimination statement
5. Fees, dues, and other considerations for membership (only dues for state or national fees shall be made mandatory)
6. Time and location of meetings
7. Faculty advisor
8. Time of election of officers
9. Number of students interested (a minimum of 10 is required)
10. Proposed constitution, including officer and leadership structure

The Office of Student Life shall examine each application and reject those not submitted in proper form. The application is then forwarded to the Chartering Committee of the SGA.

Rights of Student Organizations

Upon being chartered by the College, an organization is eligible:

1. To use the phrase "Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College" when referring to its chapter of club.
2. To use college facilities and certain equipment, subject to the Board of Regents' policies and the College regulations governing the use of facilities and equipment
(Club Advisor must go to ABAC website at www.abac.edu/Scheduling/Available/ to check the availability of the building and room).
3. To apply for student activities fee money.

Responsibilities of Student Organizations

Campus displays: Displays of posters, notices, or banners may be placed where specifically designated when approved by the Office of Student Life, ABAC Place Town Hall.

Collective responsibility: Each organization shall be held responsible for individual violations incurred by any of its members in conjunction with the club activities.

Damages: A student organization shall be financially responsible for any unwarranted or malicious damage to any facility or equipment assigned to its use.

Disorderly activities: An organization shall be responsible for any of its activities which cause a riot, disturbance, or disorderly diversion which interferes with the normal operation of the College. This section should not be construed so as to deny any organization the right of peaceful assembly.

Eligibility for Membership and Officers

Active Membership shall be open to students who are regularly and currently enrolled at ABAC and in good standing.

A student must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA and be in good standing with the College in order to be eligible to serve as an officer of a student organization or to represent the organization and the College in any off-campus activity, meeting, competition, conference or workshop.

Financial Responsibility

The use of allocated student activities money must conform to the purposes and practices approved by the Student Activities Fee Funding Committee.

Organizations shall carry on business transactions and contractual regulations with punctual and timely discharge of valid obligations and prudent use of funds.

All monies collected or expended by an organization must be approved by the faculty advisor and records must be available for audit at any time.

Information to be filed with the Office of Student Life

A list of officers must be submitted to the SGA Club Coordinator within ten working days of the beginning of each term.

This and any other information that may be required must be submitted in the proper form with ten working days of the beginning of each term to the SGA Club Coordinator

Rights and Ceremonies

Any activity which in any part takes place in public, which in any way involves persons outside the organization, which is not confined to a single building must be approved by the Office of Student Life prior to the activity.

All rights and ceremonies of introduction, initiation, or orientation into college life which tend to allow unreasonable physical or mental suffering are prohibited. No organization shall condone, encourage, or require unlawful acts by its members at any time. Organizations shall be responsible for observing all College regulations.

Petitions: Because of the College's responsibility for information and knowledge of such activities, all petitions which may be circulated among the whole or part of the student body must be registered with the Office of Student Life.

Organization publications: All organizational publications must be submitted to the Office of Student Life for approval before being circulated.

Evaluations

All organizations must have provisions for evaluating their overall activity. Evaluation is important for organizational accountability and planning

purposes. There should be a clearly explained evaluation scheme so that all members understand exactly the criteria for evaluation and the evaluation process.

Financial responsibility is a very important part of the evaluation process. Also, numbers of students involved, successful and unsuccessful endeavors, and notable organizational accomplishment are important items of the evaluation process.

Review and Enforcement

The Office of Student Life and/or Club Coordinator shall have the power periodically to review all student organizations to see if they have been financially responsible and to see if they have acted within College regulations. A club may not discriminate against any person according to his/her race, creed or sex. All complaints against organizations shall be processed by the Office of Student Life and/or the Club Coordinator. An organization may appeal the imposition of any penalty to the Vice President for Student Affairs, who shall review the action and affirm, reverse, or modify the penalty. The Vice President may utilize the services of an existing or ad hoc committee in determining the issues involved. Furthermore, upon notice and hearing, the Vice President for Student Affairs may review at any time the charter of any student organization, or any decision on disciplinary charges against any student organization and make whatever final disposition of the matter he/she deems necessary for the best interests of the College.

The student organization may be assessed with the following penalties:

1. Public reprimand
2. Restriction of any or all privileges
3. Monetary fines or withholding or withdrawal of all allocated student activities monies
4. Restitution for damages
5. Probation of charter
6. Suspension of charter
7. Withdrawal of charter. Reactivation of any student organization must be accomplished in the same manner in which any student organization is originally chartered and with specified restrictions.
8. Community service

House Bill 1225, entitled Student Organization Responsibility for Drug Abuse Act, which became effective July 1, 1990, in the State of Georgia, provides that any student organization that knowingly engages in illegal drug activity will be expelled from its college campus for a minimum of one year. A student organization may appeal to the Board of Regents, or, in some cases, to certain superior courts.