The Ten Principles of an SA Organization - SAAC

The Ten Principles of an SA Organization are the Students’ Association’s basic standards for all applying and approved undergraduate University of Rochester student organizations.

A Clear and Focused Mission - All student organizations must have a clear and focused mission statement that enhances the Rochester campus community. Without a clear and focused mission, a student organization lacks direction and purpose.

- The organization’s specific intent needs to be clearly defined in the mission statement.
- All organizations are expected to operate within their stated missions.
- The mission statement should clearly embody the aims of the student organization.

Openness - All organizations must be welcoming to the diversity of the undergraduate students of the University of Rochester. Student organizations must not discriminate against any person because of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or political affiliation. (SA Constitution). All organizations must make an effort to be accessible to the student body through programming, publications, activities, and collaboration.

- Student organizations may be exclusive in nature given that their membership is derived from a process that allows any eligible student, as defined by their mission statement, to apply for membership.
- The Students’ Association refuses to recognize groups which have a ‘self-selecting’ leadership process, wherein a group’s current executive leadership unilaterally determines both the group’s membership and the next executive board.

Embodiment of the Communal Principles - The Communal Principles (Fairness, Freedom, Honesty, Inclusion, Respect, Responsibility) are recognized by the campus community as “fundamental interrelated principles” that are “necessary conditions to learning”. Student organizations are therefore held to the same standards.

- Student organizations are expected to reflect these principles in their application, purpose, and actions, and ensure these principles are evident in their programming, publications, activities, and collaboration.

Membership - A strong active membership proves that there is a substantial number of students whose extracurricular experience is improved by the addition of such an organization, therefore justifying the resources provided for it. Inadequate membership is often indicative of an organization’s lack of uniqueness or a lack of student interest. Therefore, all student organizations are required to maintain and demonstrate a membership sufficient to accomplish their missions.

- The Students’ Association defines a sufficient active membership as twelve (12) active full time undergraduate students.
- To ensure accurate reporting, members of an organization must confirm their involvement in the organization via the Campus Club Connection website.

Uniqueness - It is the policy of the Students’ Association to stand behind our existing organizations and to help existing organizations succeed rather than replace them with new organizations. Therefore, all student organizations must be unique and distinct from all other student organizations. This is necessary to ensure that similar organizations will not detract resources or membership from each other.
• Student organizations that spark the creation of infinitely more organizations must not be formed; this causes an inefficient usage of student resources.

**Sustainability**- Student organizations are expected to be long-lasting fixtures of student life at the University. A lower turnover of student organizations allows these organizations to build off of past successes and develop sustainable practices that expand their ability to serve the University.

• A group’s sustainability is determined by their leadership, their ability to access resources the group needs, the structure of the organization, the scope of their mission statement, or the time in which the issue they address will be fulfilled.

**Community Contributions**- All student organizations are components of the larger University of Rochester Community, and are therefore required to give back to the Students’ Association. Student group contribution may come in the form of anything that enhances student life.

• Some common examples of ways organizations contribute to student life are programs, physical contributions, community service, publications, initiatives, services, and providing entertainment.

**Leadership Development**- All student organizations must actively invest in the future leadership of the organization in order to maintain their recognized status. This includes recruitment, leadership opportunities, and training for younger members. Such activities are essential in enhancing an organization’s chance of succeeding and persisting. When an organization gains SA recognition, they are expected to remain a successful organization for years to come. However, success is not possible without future leadership development.

• Organizations will actively seek out leadership opportunities through their advisors and through the Rochester Center for Community Leadership.

**Resource Responsibility**- Rochester student groups, per their recognition, are granted access to resources unique to SA groups. In return, we expect student groups to use these resources responsibly. This includes fiscal responsibility, being responsible in social capital, equipment responsibility, being accountable to the university, and making proper use of office, mailbox and cabinet space, amongst others. The mission and actions of student groups should also exemplify responsible use of University and WCSA resources.

• This includes inventory reports, SAAC funding, equipment, room reservations, and other forms of resources provided to student organization.

**A Spirit of Meliora**- As members of the University of Rochester, we dedicate ourselves to the spirit of Meliora, that we forever strive to be “Ever Better”. We expect our student organizations to do the same, constantly asking themselves “How can we do what we do better?”

• This can be achieved through constant reevaluation of processes and their adherence to their approved mission statements, keeping constitutions updated, completing assessment forms, and making sure all documentation is up-to-date.

• This also means planning for the future through development of transition documents, goal setting, and ensuring that the mission they were excepted under is available for future generations of students to enjoy.