

Valdosta State University

Student Organization Conduct Process

INTRODUCTION

Valdosta State University, which will be _____, is committed to supporting student organizations that permit and foster _____ associate and express themselves. Student organizations that are registered with, or non-registered organizations that exhibit behaviors that would be consistent with activities of a registered organization, accept the rights and responsibilities outlined in this policy. It is understood that Valdosta State University holds each organization responsible for the actions of its members and their guests at all times. Furthermore, it is understood that all student organizations will abide by the Valdosta State University Student Code of Conduct. It should also be noted that if disciplinary actions are taken against a student organization, the following disciplinary process, pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct, shall be followed.

A. CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE ALLEGATION IS AN ORGANIZATIONAL VIOLATION

Registered student organizations may be charged with violations of the Student Code of Conduct or University Policy when:

- a) One or more of its officers or authorized representatives acting in the scope of their organizational capacities commit(s) the violation;
- b) One or more of its members commit(s) the violation after the action that constitutes the violation was approved by majority vote of the organization present and voting members;
- c) One or more members of a committee of the organization commit(s) the violation while _____ ment. This means that student organizations shall be responsible for the conduct and actions of each member of the organization while acting in the capacity of a member(s) or while attending or participating in any activity of the organization;
- d) A member of an organization acting with apparent authority of the organization commits the violation;

be provided.

The alleged offender (and in cases involving sexual misconduct or other forms of discrimination and/or harassment, including hazing, the alleged victim) shall have the right to appeal the outcome on any of the following grounds:

1. To consider new information, sufficient to alter the decision, or other relevant facts not brought out in the original hearing, because such information was not known or knowable to the person appealing during the time of the hearing;
2. To allege a procedural error within the hearing process that may have substantially impacted the fairness of the hearing, including but not limited to whether any hearing questions were improperly excluded or whether the decision was tainted by bias; or
3. To allege that the finding was inconsistent with the weight of the information.

The appeal shall be a review of the record only, and no new meeting with the respondent organization, witnesses, or any alleged victim is required. The Vice President for Student Affairs, or his or her designee, may affirm the original finding and sanction, affirm the original finding but issue a new sanction of lesser severity, remand the case back to the decision-maker to correct a procedural or factual defect, or reverse or dismiss the case if there was a procedural or factual defect that cannot be remedied by remand.

The Vice President or his or her designee shall then issue a decision in writing to the respondent within a reasonable time period. The decision of the Vice President of Student Affairs or his or her designee may be appealed in writing within five business days (as determined by the date of the decision letter) to the President of the institution solely on the three grounds set forth above. The President may affirm the original finding and sanction, affirm the original finding but issue a new sanction of greater or lesser severity, remand the case back to the decision maker to correct a procedural or factual defect, or reverse or dismiss the case if there was a procedural or factual defect that cannot be remedied by remand.