MEMORANDUM

TO: President Ray M. Bowen
FROM: Thomas E. Wehrly, Speaker, 1999-2000

SUBJECT: Approval of Revisions to 1999-2000 Student Rules

At its regular meeting on June 14, 1999, the Faculty Senate approved the attached revisions to the 1999-2000 Student Rules, and submits them for your approval.

Thank you for your consideration of this item. I would appreciate your informing me of your action on this recommendation.

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas, Executive Vice President & Provost
Dr. Janis Stout, Dean of Faculties
Ms. Linda F. Lacey, Director of Academic Support Services
Dr. Brent G. Paterson, Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

Approved:

Ray M. Bowen, President

Date 8/2/99
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of the President

August 3, 1999

MEMO

Dr. Thomas E. Wehrly
Speaker, The Faculty Senate

The attached has been approved and is returned for further handling.

Ray M. Bowen

cc: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas
Dr. Janis Stout
Ms. Linda F. Lacey
Dr. Brent Paterson
MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 27, 1999

TO: Diane Kaplan, Ph.D.
Speaker, Faculty Senate

FROM: Brent Paterson, Ph.D.
Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to 1999-2000 Student Rules

Attached please find additional proposed revisions to the 1999-2000 Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee.

cc: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas, Executive Vice President andProvost
Dr. J. Malon Southerland, Vice President for Student Affairs
Mr. William B. Krumm, Vice President for Finance and Controller
Dr. Jerry Gaston, Vice President for Administration
Student Organizations
Page 28, Section 41

41.1 Student organizations may be officially recognized when formed for purposes that are consistent with the philosophy and goals that have been developed for the creation and existence of Texas A&M University. Approval for recognition is granted by the vice president for student affairs through the director of student activities. In order to be recognized and to retain official recognition, student organizations must meet certain requirements. Student groups not complying with the following conditions shall not enjoy the privileges associated with the status of being officially recognized by the university including the use of university name, university facilities for meetings, university logo and trademarks, and university property for concessions. To be recognized, student groups must:

41.1.1 Have an approved full-time (employed by the university at least on a nine-month basis) faculty or staff advisor who shall ensure that the parts of these University Student Rules that apply to recognized student organizations are fulfilled should disseminate this information contained in the Student Rules to recognized student organization.

41.1.2 File a constitution and statement of purpose (in English) with the Student Activities Office and keep the constitution current by updating it at least every two years. An annual request with Student Activities Office for official recognition for the school year providing signatures of university advisor and student officers authorized to withdraw money, the names and addresses of all advisors and officers of the group, and a current constitution and by-laws that complies with the provisions outlined in the Student Organization Manual. Any changes to the organization's constitution and bylaws, shall be submitted to the Student Activities office in a timely manner.

41.1.3 Deposit and withdraw all funds of the organization in the Student Organization Finance Center and/or with the University Fiscal Department. All funds must be deposited no later than the next business day after collection. The organization's official university advisor must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

41.1.4 File an annual request with the Student Activities Office for official recognition for the school year and provide signatures of official university advisors and student officers authorized to withdraw money and the names and addresses of all advisors and student officers.

(Current sections 41.1.5, 41.1.6, and 41.1.7, are renumbered to sections 41.1.4, 41.1.5, and 41.1.6)

41.1.4 Conduct the activities of the organization in a manner that reflects the highest ideals of the university.
41.1.5 The purposes, goals and activities of one organization may not duplicate those of another.

41.1.6 In matters of finance, student publications operations shall operate under those provisions established by the Student Publications Board.

41.1.7 Be open in its membership unless otherwise permitted under applicable federal law.

The aforementioned criteria are minimum requirements set for the recognition of student organizations. Organizations may choose to set higher standards for membership including higher officer grade point requirements, higher membership grade point requirements, etc...

41.2 Students selected, elected or appointed as officers (an officer is an individual in a leadership position as defined in the organization’s constitution) in officially recognized student organizations shall:

41.2.1 Have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point ratio and at least a 2.00 grade point ratio in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semester(s) (all summer coursework is considered summer semester) during the term of office. In order for summer school grades to qualify as previous semester grades, a minimum of six hours must be taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s). This provision to be met, at least six hours must have been taken for that semester. In one limited circumstance, summer hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio prior to election/appointment, at least six hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s).

41.2.2 Be in good standing (see 27.1.4) with the university and enrolled in at least six credit hours (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office.

41.2.3 Be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in 41.1.4 41.2.1 and 41.2.2.

41.3 Student religious organizations desiring to operate on campus are subject to all rules pertaining to other student organizations. Recognized student religious organizations are not eligible for financial support from the university.

41.4 Student organizations and their official university advisors are responsible for compliance with university rules and state and federal laws.
41.5 More information and guidelines concerning recognized student organizations are available in the Procedures Manual for Student Organizations and Advisors Student Organization Manual.

41.6 Actions of recognized student organizations are subject to review. Failure to abide by these University Student Rules may result in an organizational disciplinary hearings by the director of student activities or his or her designate. Sanctions may range from documented verbal reprimand through revocation of recognition privileges. Sanction procedures are outlined in the Procedures Manual for Student Organizations Student Organization Manual.

41.7 The Interfraternity Council Judicial Board hears all cases brought against member fraternities. The purpose of the Judicial Board is to provide a peer level hearing body that is aware of and sensitive to the needs and problems within the fraternity system. Procedures and sanctions of this Judicial Board are outlined in the Texas A&M IFC Judicial Board Manual and in the IFC constitution The Department of Student Life in cooperation with the Department of Student Activities establishes the process for hearing cases brought against fraternities comprising the Interfraternity Council.

41.8 Minors who are not students at Texas A&M University are ineligible for membership and may not participate in regular activities of the Texas A&M University recognized student organizations. Exception: Minors who are dependents of Texas A&M University students, faculty or staff members will be allowed to participate in club activities if their parents: (a) are members of the student organization; (b) are in attendance while minor dependents are participating; and (c) are willing to accept responsibility for accidents and injuries to minors while participating.

Activities of University-Recognized Groups Student Organizations
Page 28-29, Section 42

The university is a forum for ideas and their exchange. Such exchange can only occur on a scholarly plane if good order is maintained and standards of decorum and good behavior are recognized by all. The university recognizes that some activities will have audiences of a single class, seminar or organization, and that others will be addressing themselves to a wider spectrum of the university community. Programming committees of the Memorial Student Center are specifically designated to present programs to an all-university audience. It is the responsibility of the university to provide the climate and conditions for teaching, research, extension and other services. The following rules are designed to serve these objectives:

42.1 Any university-recognized group organization may sponsor speakers or programs for its own group. Programming committees of the Memorial Student Center are specifically designated to present programs to an all-university audience. Other
university recognized organizations may sponsor programs or speakers for an all-university audience if approved to do so by the director of student activities. The organization may sponsor programs or speakers for an all-university audience if approved to do so by the Director of Student Activities. An "all-university audience" shall generally be defined as one that is advertised outside the membership of the organization and is promoted as being open to persons who are not members of the sponsoring organization(s).

42.2 An event open to an all university audience shall generally be defined as one that is advertised outside the membership of the organization and is promoted as being open to persons who are not members of the sponsoring organization(s). (42.2 deleted; merged with 42.1.)

(current 42.3 through 42.13 is renumbered to become 42.2 through 42.8)

42.2 All contracts for programs sponsored by the Memorial Student Center and Class Councils for an all-university audience and contracts for events sponsored by recognized student organizations shall be approved in compliance with the Texas A&M University President's Delegation of Authority for Contract Administration. If a recognized student organization is entering into a contract on behalf of their organization, the contract must be approved by the following:

42.2.1 The director of student activities or his or her designated representative shall monitor contracts for similar events of other recognized student organizations in coordination with the MSC director in relation to films and events subject to copyright laws. Students are not authorized to sign contracts on behalf of their organizations unless they are checked by the appropriate university officials. If the contract is for an all-university audience, then the contract needs to be approved in compliance with the Texas A&M University President's Delegation of Authority for Contract Administration.

42.2.2 If the contract involves films or events subject to copyright laws, then the Director of Student Activities, in accordance with the Director of the Memorial Student Center, shall monitor those contracts.

42.2.3 In all other cases, the organization is expected to provide their university advisor an opportunity to review the contract prior to execution.

Ultimately, student organizations, and not Texas A&M University, are responsible for the financial responsibility associated with the execution of the contracts.

42.4 The arrangements for a speaker or performance, the conduct of the speaker or performer on campus and the good order of the activity are the concern of both the
inviting group and the university. The privilege to invite speakers and performers carries with it important responsibilities to ensure that the proper objectives of the university are not compromised.

42.5 Because of the number, variety and scope of activities sponsored by the institution's faculty, staff and students, Texas A&M cannot be held responsible for accidents and/or injuries incurred through activities on or off campus sponsored by recognized student organizations.

42.6 The organization inviting a speaker or performer to the campus will be pecuniarily responsible for any and all damages proximately caused by acts of misfeasance or malfeasance on the part of the speaker/performer or those acting in concert with him or her. The organization inviting a speaker/performer to the campus shall hold the university harmless from any and all damages proximately caused by acts of misfeasance or malfeasance on the part of the speaker/performer or those acting in concert with him or her.

42.3 The privilege of inviting speakers and performers carries with it important responsibilities to ensure that the proper objectives of the university are not compromised. The university reserves the right to cancel any event it deems likely to cause an interruption in the university's orderly activities. The president or his duly authorized representative may order an event to be terminated on grounds that it constitutes a disruptive activity as defined by the Texas Education Code. (See Appendix I and Appendix XI.) Any member of the faculty or staff or any student who resists such an order shall be subject to disciplinary action.

42.4 Because the university is judged by the action of its students, no individual, group or other organization may use the institution's name without the express authorization of the institution except to identify the institutional affiliation. Institution approval or disapproval of any rule event may not be stated or implied by any individual, group or organization as a position held by the university.

42.9 The All Faiths Chapel is the center of on campus religious activities. Accordingly, religious services to be held in the chapel must be scheduled through the University Scheduling and Services Office in conformity with established chapel rules.

42.5 It is expected that all student organizations will have their functions events, whether on or off campus, approved by their official university advisor(s).

42.6 State law, as it regards candidates for public office and campaigning on public property, and all other applicable statutes must be observed. Any recognized student organization wishing to bring in this type of speaker must first get the approval of the Director of Student Activities.
42.7 The university prohibits the use of any of its symbols, insignias or other identifying marks in any political endorsements, campaigns or elections.

42.8 Recognized student organizations must seek advance approval to use university marks on commercial products or service promotions, purchase the products from a licensee and have a design approved by the Office of Collegiate Licensing.

Submitted by: Steven W. Boggs, Department of Student Activities

Justification for Proposed Change:

The Student Organization Advisory Board (SOAB), charged with making recommendations to the Department of Student Activities on such issues as rules affecting student organizations, was the driving force behind these proposed changes. Many of the recommended changes were bringing up-to-date some of the administrative changes like the changing of the name "Procedures Manual for Student Organizations" to the "Student Organization Manual".

Other changes were predicated on the need to make the provision more user friendly to the reader. For example, the change regarding student organization officer GPR was to clear up confusion when officers and advisors tried to interpret whether an officer was in good standing or not. The proposed recommendation will hopefully show the original intent of the provision which was to allow those aspiring to be an officer for the fall to be able to use summer grades as a tool for qualifying for an office. Currently, officers believe they may use the summer during office to make up for deficient spring grades which flies in the face of the intent of the original provision.

Finally, some of the proposed changes reflect additions or deletions that are necessary to the advancement of student organizations and advisement. For example, one proposed addition, to reflect the various federal anti-discrimination laws, requires student organizations be open in their membership unless otherwise permitted under law.

This is an overview as to why these changes are being proposed. The last revision date was 1997 so you can see that some of these are long overdue.
Student Registration
Page 4-5, Section 1

1.10.1 A student may be blocked from registering for future semesters by the following offices for the following reasons. This list is not inclusive of all offices that can block students or all types of blocks.

Office of Graduate Studies, academic departments or colleges—for scholastic deficiency or for disciplinary reasons related to scholastic dishonesty.

Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services—for an accumulation of overdue, unpaid parking violation citations.

Student Financial Aid—for an outstanding bill owed for financial aid. Fiscal Department—for an outstanding bill owed to the university.

Office of Admissions and Records, Office of Graduate Studies, academic departments and colleges—for students admitted provisionally or on probation or for information lacking to complete the admission process and for enrolled students who have submitted questionable records (such as transcripts or residency documents) to the registrar's office.

Department of Student Life and Department of Residence Life—for disciplinary reasons.

Athletic Academic Affairs Office—to assure compliance with NCAA regulations.

International Student Services—to ensure compliance with university procedures and I.N.S. regulations.

Center for Academic Enhancement—to ensure compliance with Texas Academic Skills Program mandate.

Submitted by: Kriss Boyd, General Academics

Justification for Proposed Change:

This will better reflect current practices.
1.5 Curriculum Violation: Degree-Seeking Graduate and Undergraduate Students

1.5.1 A student is expected to register for a schedule of courses that follows the program of study for a degree in his or her college. A student who elects not to follow the program of study must obtain approval from his or her academic advisor, department head or college dean, and the dean of the college offering the courses. A student who fails to obtain approval may be, by his or her dean, blocked from registration, removed from the inappropriate course(s) and/or required to register for a prescribed schedule of courses.

Submitted by: Kriss Boyd, General Academics

Justification for Proposed Change:

With the increasing GPR requirements for several colleges/departments, there have been an increasing number of problems with students who are closet majors. This rule would be parallel to the policy on minors which requires both colleges to grant approval.