Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Howdy Student Organization Leaders and Advisors,

As we all settle into our work and studies, we hope that these updates continue to provide assistance in navigating the current environment. Below are a few reminders and key pieces of information to support your organization’s operations. Please continue to share this information with members of your organization. Also, don’t forget to regularly check out our Student Organization Resources and Updates (COVID-19) website for helpful information as we continue to add content there.

KEY UPDATES

● We know that many of our student organizations have been creative in adapting plans and efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you’d like to spread the word or share a success story for other organizations to learn from, please TAG or DM @tamustuact on our social media platforms.

● Due to the cancellation of many student organization events, activities, and fundraisers during the Spring 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the Student Organization Funding Assistance Board (SOFAB) has dedicated a portion of the annual allocation of funds to specifically assist organizations recover their losses. For more information and to submit a request, search for the SOFAB COVID-19 Supplemental Funding 2020 application on the MaroonLink Forms website.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION FINANCE CENTER (SOFC) UPDATES

● The SOFC will be accepting deposits in the Koldus Night Depository on Tuesdays beginning April 21 from 8:00-11:00 A.M. This includes Cash Advance Reconciliations. Secure bags and deposit slips will be available in the hallway outside of the SOFC Office Suite, Koldus 235. Non-cash deposits will continue to be accepted by mail at 235 John J Koldus Student Services Building, 1236 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1236. For questions relating to deposits, please email sofc@stuact.tamu.edu.

● SOFC eForms are also available, with links posted on the Student Organization Resources (COVID-19) webpage. Signers must be authorized on the current SOFC Signature Card and use their @tamu.edu email address to access forms. All payments will be paid via ACH, Direct Deposit. No checks are being printed at this time.

● The SOFC continues to operate virtually to manage your organization’s financial needs. Visit tx.ag/SOFCVirtualOfficeHours to select a time and schedule a Virtual Office Hours appointment, or email sofc@stuact.tamu.edu with any questions and the appropriate team member will contact you.

ORGANIZATION MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

● University Center & Special Events (UCEN) has now opened special event registration for all yearly conferences, large seminars, banquets, socials, etc. that are open to individuals outside your organization membership scheduled to occur between June 1st of the current year and May 31st of the following year. See the video at https://ucenter.tamu.edu/reserve/ for instructions on using the Special Event template when making a web request.

● If you are planning an event or meeting on or off-campus, please remember to follow TAMU Guidelines related to meeting size, social distancing, remote access for participants, and travel restrictions. If you are planning to move a program to an online platform, please ensure that you are also following best practices for online events. If you would like to speak with someone about moving your event online, please email SODA at soda@stuact.tamu.edu.
NOTABLE UNIVERSITY UPDATES

- Muster will take place on April 21 with kick off at 6:51 am CDT with The Association of Former Students’ Worldwide Roll Call for the Absent, followed by local Muster events, which will play at various times during the day. The student-run campus Muster will start at 7 pm. All events will be replayable after their first showing. The web hub at MusterLive.AggieNetwork.com will include maps pinpointing Muster events as well as the locations of Aggies who are visiting the page. Participants will be able to stream Muster ceremonies, say “Here” virtually for their fallen comrades, and contribute memories and even photos to an online Reflections Display in honor of the Aggies lost since the last Muster.

- Family Weekend 2020 has gone virtual! Join the event April 17-19 from wherever you are to celebrate with your family and share in the Aggie spirit. View the full list of activities at familyweekend.tamu.edu/virtual.

- Due to the on-going concerns regarding COVID-19, Texas A&M University has decided to cancel in-person New Student Conferences (NSC) for summer 2020 and move them to a fully virtual experience. For more information on the NSC’s virtual experience, visit newaggie.tamu.edu/virtual.

TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Zoom’s Desktop Client has a new update! This update allows you to lock any meeting you are hosting! To learn how to update to Version 4.6.10 & find out where the new feature is located visit KeepTeaching.tamu.edu.

- Texas A&M has also issued recommended guidelines for setting up secure Zoom meetings. More information can be found on the Keep Teaching website, which includes a video about steps to avoid “Zoombombing” and other security issues.

The Department of Student Activities is here to support you and your organization! Our staff are still assisting student organizations as needed and will continue to provide regular updates through the end of the semester. Please do not hesitate to contact us at soda@stuact.tamu.edu for direct student organization assistance or info@stuact.tamu.edu for general Student Activities questions.

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