Howdy Student Organization Leaders and Advisors,

While this fall looks different than any of us would’ve expected, we hope that your organization’s activities are off to a great start. This newsletter is intended to convey updates, resources, and opportunities for your organization as we continue to move forward. We encourage you to follow Student Activities on its social media platforms via @tamustuact, and don’t forget to check out our Student Organization Resources and Updates (COVID-19) website as we will continue to provide helpful content there.

UPDATED STUDENT ORGANIZATION EVENT GUIDANCE

- All student organization activities **must** comply with the following guidance:
  
  o **Capacity**
    
    - **Indoor Gatherings:**
      
      - On-campus indoor gatherings of more than 25 will be reviewed by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for COVID-19 mitigation and compliance with existing university guidelines.
      - Off-campus indoor gatherings must meet the State of Texas’s guidance for reduced capacity.
    
    - **Outdoor Gatherings:**
      
      - On-campus outdoor gatherings of more than 10:
        
        - Reserve outdoor space through the University Center & Special Events (UCEN) reservation process or appropriate reserving authority.
        - Persons or groups of more than 10 persons wishing to exercise use of Texas A&M’s traditional public forms and/or three (3) reservable free speech areas should contact University Center & Special Events (UCEN) for reservation information and follow the guidelines listed in Appendix XI of the Texas A&M Student Rules regarding freedom of expression.
        - Will be reviewed by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for COVID-19 mitigation and compliance with existing university guidelines.
      
      - Off-campus outdoor gatherings of more than 10 must receive approval from the local authority, mayor or county judge, in which the event is hosted.
    
    - All on-campus events must also ensure access/entry control.

  o **Physical Distancing**

    - Individuals should maintain a distance of 6 feet away from one another throughout the duration of the event.

  o **Face Coverings**

    - All student organization events - on- and off-campus - are required to comply with the university face covering policy.

  o **Travel**

    - Domestic and foreign student travel, defined by University Rule 13.04.99.M1 - Student Travel and includes activities of recognized student organizations, is suspended unless the travel is deemed mission critical to Texas A&M University.
    - Student organizations should consult with the Department of Student Activities to determine if desired travel is mission-critical to the institution, with approval required from the Vice President of Student Affairs (if domestic) and/or Office of the Provost (if international) prior to travel.

**NOTE:** Organizational activities not compliant with the provisions above may be subject to action through the student organization accountability process.
STUDENT ORGANIZATION FINANCE CENTER (SOFC) UPDATES

- The SOFC office (Koldus 235) is currently open during the following hours:
  - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays - 8am to 3pm
  - Thursdays - 10:30am to 3pm

  **Note:** Cash Advances and in-person Credit Card Payments will be handled by appointment. These appointments may be limited, so check with the SOFC team before traveling to Koldus.

- The SOFC is continuing to encourage virtual services:
  - Payment requests and other documents are available digitally through SOFC eForms.
  - Completed Signature Cards may be emailed to sofcga@stuact.tamu.edu.
  - Your organization’s Marketplace store can be used for collecting dues, selling merchandise, and soliciting small donations. Contact sofcga@stuact.tamu.edu for assistance setting up your storefront.
  - SOFC Training is available online via training modules for officers and advisors, YouTube, and the SOFC Instructional Guide.

- To schedule an in-person or virtual appointment or for other questions, email sofc@stuact.tamu.edu, visit the SOFC MaroonLink Page, or call 979-845-1114.

ON-CAMPUS SPACE RESERVATIONS

- **Rec Sports:**
  - Reservations for student organization space, other than for those housed in the Department of Recreational Sports, will not be accepted prior to October 1. Prior to October 1, this policy will be reevaluated to determine if spaces will reopen for reservation or if they will continue to be unavailable, dependent on campus and community spread at that time.
  - Additionally, Rec Sports will not rent out more than one tent to an individual at one time.

- **Koldus:**
  - Reservations are available on a limited basis from 8:00am to 8:00pm Monday-Friday with very limited availability between 5:00pm-8:00pm. All rooms are operating at reduced seating capacity for Fall 2020.
  - Reservation requests will be accepted by email only. No in-person, phone-in, or virtual requests will be accepted. Contact info@stuact.tamu.edu for more information.

REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Cluster Reporting:**
  - The Department of Education requires universities to identify buildings and, where applicable, related organizations where clusters of COVID-19 cases appear so that the campus community has sufficient information to make informed decisions as to how to protect themselves.
  - More information about the indicators and variables used to determine a cluster, as well as active clusters in our community, can be found here. The university reminds the campus community against using public safety notifications to target persons or groups for the purposes of shaming, harassment or threats. Doing so may create a chilling effect that could impede the reporting of positive cases to the Texas A&M University System reporting portal and may violate university policy.

- **Title IX Reporting:**
  - Per a recent university-wide email, the Title IX Office has received anonymous reports of concerning off-campus behaviors related to the use of incapacitating agents (e.g. rohypnol, ketamine, GHB, large amounts of alcohol). The reports allege that students are being incapacitated with a drug and then sexually assaulted. Law enforcement is investigating.
  - Individuals with information about this type of incident, or any other sexual misconduct in the campus community, should notify the Title IX Office at (979) 458-8407 and/or the University Police Department at (979) 845-2345.
ORGANIZATION FUNDRAISING UPDATES

● As your organization initiates or continues fundraising efforts, the Texas A&M Foundation and Division of Student Affairs suggest that you consider the following:
  ○ Be sensitive to what your community of supporters are living through, as the implications surrounding the economy are having a large effect on the stock market, employment and how families are protecting themselves during this time. You may need to review and/or adjust how you have fundraised in the past or what your current goals are.
  ○ Send updates of cancelations, postponements, and rescheduling of events and activities should be part of your process moving forward and a method of keeping donors informed of what is going on in terms of the student organization. These updates can also serve as a stewardship check-in with those who are passionate about your organization.

● If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to Allie McConnell in the Department of Student Activities, amcconnell@stuact.tamu.edu.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

● Now Playing! Student Activities is launching a podcast called "Keep Leading with Student Activities" as part of the A&M Podcast Network. Episodes will showcase incredible stories behind great student leadership in student organizations and provide advice to make yourself and your organizations more impactful. For the latest episodes visit https://blubrry.com/tamuleadershippodcast/, where you can also listen from your choice of available podcast platforms. Know a student leader/organization story worth sharing? Email your episode idea to Bruce Brown (bbrown@stuact.tamu.edu).

● For Advisors: Save the dates for the Advisor Resource Web Series, intended to support student organization advisors during COVID-19. Click here for a full list of dates and topics!

The Department of Student Activities is here to support you and your organization! Please 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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