FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

NOTICE OF REGULATORY ACTION
March 19, 2010

REGULATION TITLE:
Student Activities Eligibility

REGULATION NO.:
FGCU-PR4.005

SUMMARY:
This regulation is being revised to adjust eligibility for holding office within student organizations.

FULL TEXT:
The full text of the regulation being proposed is attached and can also be found at http://www.fgcu.edu/generalcounsel/promulgation.asp

LAW IMPLEMENTED:
§1001.74, Florida Statutes and BOG Regulations 1.001(4) and 6.010

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL INITIATING THE PROPOSED REVISED REGULATION:
Michele Yovanovich, Dean of Students

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL APPROVING THE PROPOSED REGULATION:
Dr. Mike Rollo, Vice President for Student Affairs

PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATION:
Diane St. John, Administrative Assistant, dstjohn@fgcu.edu; (239) 590-1101 (Phone), (239) 590-7470 (Facsimile); 10501 FGCU Blvd. South, Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565

ANY COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING ON OR BEFORE APRIL 2, 2010 BY 5:00 P.M. THE COMMENTS MUST IDENTIFY THE REGULATION ON WHICH YOU ARE COMMENTING.

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED ON THE FGCU WEBSITE ON: MARCH 19, 2010.
(1) General. The University Florida Gulf Coast University ("FGCU" or the "University") encourages supports a variety of student involvement on campus through activities and organizations. Research reports that a belief in their co-curricular engagement has a positive impact—value, their role in/on the general education of students and their retention at the University being an asset to the University community. Opportunities for student involvement and leadership in student organizations include, but are not limited to, Student Government, media groups, academic/pre-professional, and honorary, religious, club sports, recreational, social, special interests, minority, international and cultural, service and fraternity/sorority groups. Student organizations and student leaders play an important role in the total university life and must, therefore, exercise judgment and responsibility in the planning and implementation of their activities. This judgment and responsibility extends to individual members and as well as officers of organizations. Organizations and individuals must also observe the rules set forth by their national affiliations as well as the University’s regulations and policies relating to student activities including, but not limited to, the Student Code of Conduct.

(2) Registration of Student Organizations. Any student, group or organization whose objectives are consistent with the organizational goals and mission of Florida Gulf Coast University is eligible for registration. Final registration approval must be granted by the Dean of Student Affairs. Student organizations that wish to be recognized by the University must follow appropriate procedures established by the Division of Student Affairs. Registration approval must be granted by the Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee). Registered Student Organizations may be granted certain privileges by the Office of Student Involvement. Those privileges are outlined in its Student Organization Handbook. Organizational membership requirements must also be satisfied. In order to comply with the University’s commitment to non-discrimination, no discrimination shall be made on the basis of gender, race, color, creed, age, religion,
disability, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, parental status or veteran status.

(3) Membership. Membership in any student organization is limited to any student enrolled student who is currently paying fees in a degree-seeking program as an undergraduate, graduate, or postgraduate student. and is enrolled with Florida Gulf Coast University. Organizational membership requirements must also be satisfied. FGCU faculty, staff and alumni may be non-voting associate members. In order to comply with the Florida Gulf Coast University’s commitment to non-discrimination, no discrimination shall be made on the basis of gender, race, color, creed, age, religion, disability, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, parental status or veteran’s status.

(4) Eligibility for Leadership Positions/Officer Qualifications. The University has established minimum requirements for leadership, but shall waive the minimum requirements for students who have been members of the organization in good standing for at least one semester where such waiver will support and enhance the mission of the University in elected or appointed positions in an organization as follows.

a. A student must:

i. Be currently enrolled as a fee paying student in at least one class at Florida Gulf Coast University;

ii. Have a grade point average of at least 2.0 for all work attempted while in attendance at FGCU;

iii. Be in good disciplinary standing (not on disciplinary probation); and

iv. Be free of any holds on university records.

b. Students who are currently members of a student organization who do not meet these minimum requirements to hold an officer position and seek to remain or become an officer may submit a written appeal to the Student Organization Standards Board within two (2) weeks from the first day of class each semester.

c. The Student Government has established eligibility requirements for selected positions in that organization. These requirements and governing procedures are presented in their election code, which will be made available to any student upon request as well as to all candidates filing for office.

a) A student must:

1. Be currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program and pay Activity and Service (“A&S”) fee during the term(s) of the position;
2. Meet requirements for course registration and academic standing such as:

a. effective Fall 2010, undergraduate students must be registered for at least nine (9) credits each regular semester, and at least three (3) credit hours in either summer term A, B or C, and maintain a minimum 2.25 cumulative FGCU GPA. Graduate and professional students must be registered for six (6) credits per semester, and maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative FGCU GPA; and

b. effective Fall 2011, undergraduate students must be registered for nine (9) credits in each semester, and at least three (3) credit hours in either summer term A, B or C and maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative FGCU GPA. Graduate and professional students must be registered for nine (9) credits in each semester, and maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative FGCU GPA;

3. Be in good academic standing, free of conduct probation and be free of delinquent obligations for tuition and fees. Notwithstanding, students who otherwise meet the requirements of this subsection, but have received approval to have a reduced course load due to a registered disability, are eligible to hold leadership positions in student organizations as described herein.

b) Students in the last semester before graduation are eligible for holding leadership positions if they are enrolled for the required number of credits needed for graduation that term and maintain the required GPA.

(5) Students who are currently in a leadership position of a student organization must meet these minimum requirements to continue holding a leadership position. Students not meeting the eligibility requirements as outlined in this policy will be required to relinquish their office. A student may submit a written appeal to a committee appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs for review and determination if they may remain in that position for the remainder of the semester.

(6) Elected or appointed student leadership positions to which this regulation applies are student leadership positions in Registered Student Organizations, Student Government and its branches, Greek letter organizations and Sport Clubs.

(7) Organizations and their officers that are active in the summer semester are subject to this requirement. An organization subject to this regulation is considered active during the summer semester if it holds regularly scheduled meetings and requests, expends or utilizes A&S funds between the first day of classes of Summer A and the last day of classes of Summer BC.

(5)(8) Faculty/Staff Advisor. All registered student organizations shall have at least one full-time FGCU faculty or staff advisor in order to be considered for registration and to receive A&S funding. Additionally, a faculty or staff advisor is required in order to receive Student Government funding.
Registration Process. To be considered for registration, a student organization must submit an application in writing to the Student Organization Standards Board, providing a list of its officers, the name of the organization's faculty/staff advisor(s), the signature and contact information of all officers and the faculty/staff advisor(s), and the organization's constitution. In seeking, securing and maintaining the privilege to be registered, each student organization must agree in writing to abide by all University policies, procedures and rules, and the FGCU Student Government Constitution and Student government Statutes, and to hold harmless the University for any actions or activities of the organization.

Funds and Expenditures. Registered Student Organizations may receive disbursements for operating and programming funds from Student Government Activity and Service (A- & S) funds through the process established by Student Government in accordance with the Student Government Finance Code. All approved Student Government funding will be disbursed and expended through the Student Government Treasurer.

Privileges of Registered Student Organizations. Student organizations registered by the University shall be granted the following privileges:

a. The privilege to use University facilities depending on availability, program and guidelines;

b. The privilege to use the University's name as part of the organization's name;

c. The privilege to grant awards and honors to organization members.

Organizations that violate any law, University rule-regulation or policy, or Student Government policy will be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct. Such action includes:

a. The limitation of any or all privileges listed above;

b. Social probation for the organization;

c. The temporary suspension of the organization's activities;

d. The withdrawal of the organization's registration.

Registration of Student Organizations by the University shall not imply support for any student organization's purpose, philosophy or activities. With the exception of Student Government, Student organizations and clubs are entities independent of the Florida Gulf Coast University, and the University assumes no legal liability for any student organization's activities.
(10)(12) Students or student organizations shall not enter into contracts or agreements which purport to bind the University for any purpose.

Specific Authority:
1001.74(4) F.S.

Law Implemented:
1001.74(10), 1004.26 F.S., 1009.24

History of Rule
New 1-17-99, Amended 6-15-04

History of Regulation:
New 01/15/08: Amended

Effective Date of Regulation: