



Associations and Clubs Policy

Graduate Students' Association
of
Concordia University

*Last Modification:
Ratified on:*

Table of Contents

Definitions.....	3
Article I - Purpose.....	4
Article II - Jurisdiction.....	4
Article III - The Role of the Association and Clubs Committee.....	4
Article IV - Recognition of Umbrella Groups.....	4
Article V - Recognition Guidelines.....	5
Article VI - Operational Policy for Umbrella Groups.....	5

Definitions

Annual, Year or Academic Year:

A 12 month period starting June 1st and ending May 31st

Accredited Association or Association:

A Faculty of Departmental Association representing graduate students and accredited under an Act regarding the Accreditation and Financing of Student Associations, L.R.Q. c. A 3.01.

Club:

An academic or non-academic organization composed mainly of graduate students at Concordia University.

Council:

The Council of Directors of the GSA.

Fee Levy Group:

A not-for-profit corporation or a cooperative collecting a fee levy from graduate students at Concordia University

GSA:

Graduate Students' Association of Concordia University.

Organization or Umbrella Group:

Accredited Associations, Associations, Clubs and Fee levy groups who receive funding from the GSA.

Article I - Purpose

1. The GSA must maintain a policy and mechanism for the recognition of organization and the supervision of umbrella groups. For this policy, all umbrella groups wishing to be under the Graduate Student Association Concordia' or (GSA), wishing to access the GSA's services and to participate in GSA sponsored events, must first be recognized by the GSA Council.

Article II - Jurisdiction

1. The responsibility for the implementation of this policy is delegated to the Vice-President Internal, and/or their designate, as well as the Clubs Committee;
2. All administrative decisions to deny or withdraw recognition or funding will be reported regularly to the Association and Clubs Committee for discussion and ratification. In the case of denial or withdrawal of recognition, a reasoned decision will be provided;
3. Umbrella groups are recognized until the end of the year;
4. The GSA must notify the recognized umbrella groups from the previous year by June 30 to reapply for recognition.

Article III - The Role of the Association and Clubs Committee

1. The Association and Clubs Committee shall be composed of the members of the Executive, currently holding office;
2. The Association and Clubs Committee shall recognize Associations and Clubs for the current year;
3. The Association and Clubs committee will host at least one (1) meeting for umbrella groups in the Summer term, and two (2) meetings for umbrella groups in each of the Fall and Winter terms;
4. The Association and Clubs Committee has the right to request an independent evaluation of an umbrella group's budget or conduct an audit of an umbrella group.

Article IV - Recognition of Umbrella Groups

1. Once recognized, an umbrella group must follow the following requirement:

- 1.1. The display of the GSA logo and the words “Sponsored in part by the GSA Concordia” and the display of a GSA banner and/or promotional materials at the event. It is the responsibility of the umbrella group to obtain said promotional materials from the GSA Concordia.

Article V - Recognition Guidelines

1. GSA recognized umbrella groups must apply for recognition annually to maintain their status. The recognition period begins on June 1 and ends on March 1 of any year;
2. Recognition of umbrella groups shall be assessed annually per the following criteria:
 - 2.1. The objectives and activities of groups seeking recognition should be attempting to contribute to the educational, recreational, social or cultural values of the Concordia University community;
 - 2.2. Umbrella groups must uphold anti- discrimination practices based on the criteria enumerated in article 10 of the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedom, L.R.Q., c. C-12;
 - 2.3. Umbrella groups must also seek and obtain recognition by the Dean of Students;
 - 2.4. Umbrella groups may not engage in activities that are commercial in nature. This is not intended to preclude the collection of membership fees to cover the expenses of the organization, charges for specific activities, programs or events, or to prohibit groups from engaging in legitimate fundraising and sponsorship;
 - 2.5. A club must have at least thirty (30) members, at least half of which must be GSA members. Every club applying for recognition must submit a full membership list as part of said application. The list must include the student's name, student ID & e-mail of each member.
3. A recognized club cannot:
 - 3.1. Have as a major activity a function or event that makes it an on-campus part of a commercial organization;
 - 3.2. Provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than to benefit the organization;
 - 3.3. Provide individual financial compensation to any of its officers/executives.
4. The GSA requires a club's constitution to include:
 - 4.1. An organizational name;
 - 4.2. A mandate/purpose;
 - 4.3. An organizational structure (including executive structure);
 - 4.4. A definition of membership;
 - 4.5. An election procedure;
 - 4.6. Financial and administrative procedures.

Article VI - Operational Policy for Umbrella Groups

1. GSA members must hold a minimum of 75 per cent of leadership positions of umbrella group leaders;
2. If an umbrella group acts in a manner that is inconsistent with its constitution or the GSA By-Laws or policies, the GSA Council may revoke the umbrella group's recognition;
 - 2.1. The club may apply for recognition status at the start of the next academic year.
3. Umbrella groups will be given at least 21 calendar days notice to make any necessary changes to avoid removal of recognition from the GSA;
4. The GSA will do the booking of spaces for Clubs & bear booking costs, up to \$200 per term per Club, of spaces for the events within campus on behalf of the Clubs;
5. The GSA will not recognize an umbrella group that replicates the function, principle, or name of another organization as determined by the Association and Clubs Committee;
 - 5.1. A proposed club that bears similarities to another recognized organization but can provide proof of difference for the purpose of recognition, may appeal to the Clubs Committee as to why the proposed club should be recognized and be considered to receive funding;
6. GSA umbrella groups must aim towards implementing the GSA's Sustainability Policy during their events.