

Policy on Organised Student Life

Document type: *Policy*

Document number: *Rt 456/10*

1. PURPOSE

The University of Pretoria (UP) strives to deliver well-rounded graduates. This policy is aimed at providing clear guidelines for the proper functioning of the various organised student life structures at UP.

Students have the opportunity to participate in organised student life activities while studying towards a qualification. The main aim is to inculcate a balanced approach to student life – one in which work and recreation take their rightful place – and to ensure that they become responsible citizens. Students are encouraged to participate in the activities of at least one organised student life structure as there is a clear connection between participation and overall success.

2. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

This policy is of relevance to the following departments:

- The Department of Student Affairs (Student Support and Student Development) (DSA)
- The Department of Residence Affairs and Accommodation

This policy is applicable to the following organised student life structures:

- Student Governance Structures, i.e.
 - The Student Representative Council (SRC)
 - The Student Parliament (SP)
- Constitutional Tribunal and Student Disciplinary Advisory Panel
- Service Providers
- Registered Societies
- Faculty Houses (and Class Representatives)
- Day Houses
- Special Programmes (Tuks Top Junior Top Senior Leadership Development Programme or Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), the Golden Key International Honour Society)

3. POLICY STATEMENT

3.1 Underlying principles

All aspects of organised student life must be aligned with the vision and mission of UP and based on the following values:



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- Respect
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Fairness
- Commitment
- Excellence
- Institutional pride
- Relevance
- Inclusivity

3.2 Policy guidelines

- 3.2.1 All organised student life structures are required to conform to this policy and other related policies.
- 3.2.2 The rules and regulations of UP must be adhered to at all times. Any organised student life structure that brings UP into disrepute may be discontinued by the Executive.
- 3.2.3 The day-to-day operations of all organised student life structures are managed by students who report to the DSA or TuksRes staff or to a guardian as described in the relevant policy documents.
- 3.2.4 All student leaders serve on a voluntary basis. Small stipends may be awarded at the discretion of the Dean of Students¹. Residence house committee members receive honoraria as determined by the Director of Residence Affairs and Accommodation.
- 3.2.5 Leadership training and development programmes for student leaders are facilitated by staff in the DSA and/or TuksRes.
- 3.2.6 To be officially recognised, student life structures must be affiliated to the SRC.
- 3.2.7 All organised student life structures are subject to the Constitution for Student Governance.
- 3.2.8 All organised student life structures must have their own constitution which must be approved by the SRC, with the assistance of the Constitutional Tribunal.
- 3.2.9 There are three main sources of funding for organised student life structures at UP:
- SRC funds (allocated in terms of the SRC's *Regulation for the allocation of funds*.)
 - Membership fees (refer to the specific policies for each structure).
 - Fundraising (in line with the relevant UP policies).
- 3.2.10 All organised student life structures have access to the services offered by TuksToonbank and must comply with the UP policies related to financial matters.
- 3.2.11 All organised student life structures are entitled to establish and maintain their own mini-sites on the UP website and must comply with the UP policies related to marketing and communication.

¹ In this document and its appendices the reference to Dean of Students could also apply to the Director: Student Affairs as designated by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

- 3.2.12 Student structures qualify for the awarding of offices, but this is subject to the availability of space. The allocation of offices to student structures takes place in accordance with the SRC's *Regulation for the allocation of office space*.
- 3.2.13 All organised student life structures are entitled to make use of UP venues and must comply with the relevant UP policies regarding the use of such facilities.
- 3.2.14 Organised student life is intended for all students at UP, and therefore the leadership and membership of organised student life structures must strive to reflect the demographics of UP.
- 3.2.15 The Student Life Calendar is maintained by the DSA to assist all organised student life structures with the planning and coordination of dates for projects and events. In this regard it is important to note that academic activities must be given priority. The DSA must be notified of any date changes or updates.
- 3.2.16 The Senate Committee for Student Life serves as a platform for addressing various policy issues related to organised student life at UP as well as oversight thereof from a general educational and formative viewpoint.

4. DEFINITIONS/ABBREVIATIONS

Academic complaint:	A complaint relating to anything that pertains to formal academic programmes and courses.
Academic staff:	Full-time and part-time lecturers at UP.
Class representative:	An elected or appointed student representing a class, subject, year group or language group in a specific field of study as a voluntary leader.
Communication channel:	Official complaints protocol prescribed by UP to assist students in resolving academic or non-academic complaints effectively.
Constitution for Student Governance:	The Constitution for Student Governance is intended to reflect the principles and values of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997, as well as the vision, mission and strategic plan of the University. The purpose of the Constitution is to provide structure and procedures for student governance at UP.
Constitutional Tribunal:	The Constitutional Tribunal (formerly known as the Student Court) is the judicial arm of student governance at UP.
Day house:	An official student structure that serves as a vehicle for day students to participate actively in student life activities.
Day house guardian:	A permanent, full-time academic member of staff appointed by the DSA in consultation with the house committee, and serving in a voluntary, honorary capacity.
Day student:	A registered student who lives in accommodation other than an officially recognised UP residence.
DSA:	The Department of Student Affairs which includes the Office of the Dean of Students, the Student Development Division and the Student Support Division.
Executive Committee:	The student committee that is responsible for the day-to-day management of each of the Student Service Providers and Societies.
Faculties:	There are nine faculties at UP: Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences; Faculty of Education; Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology; Faculty of Health Sciences; Faculty of Humanities; Faculty of Law; Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences; Faculty of Theology; and Faculty of Veterinary Science.
Faculty house:	An official student structure which is organised along faculty lines to which all registered students belong by default.

Faculty house guardian:	A permanent, full-time academic member of staff appointed by the faculty to serve as a voluntary advisor to the faculty house committee.
House committee:	The student committee that is responsible for the day-to-day management of the faculty house, day house or residence.
Non-academic complaint:	A complaint relating to anything that occurs outside the classroom at UP.
Organised Student Life Structures:	Structures that are officially recognised by UP via the SRC.
Perdeby:	Official student newspaper (Service Provider).
Residence student:	A student who lives in an official residence of UP.
Service providers:	Official student substructures which form part of the DSA and which provide specific services to the student community, namely <i>Perdeby</i> , TuksFM, StudentSport, Student Culture and TuksRag.
Societies:	Society means any organised student society at UP of an academic, social, political, cultural, religious or whatever other nature, including subdivisions or departments of faculties, but excluding day houses and faculty houses.
SP:	The Student Parliament, which is elected on a constituency basis and is the representative body to which the SRC is accountable.
SRC:	The Student Representative Council is the executive body responsible for the day to day governing of student affairs and is accountable to the SP.
Student:	Any full-time or part-time student duly registered for an undergraduate or postgraduate degree or a diploma approved by Senate, but excludes a distance-education student, a student registered for subjects or programmes for non-degree purposes or a student registered for a course at the campus company Continuing Education at University of Pretoria (CE at UP).
Student Life:	Organised or officially recognised student activities which are aimed at striking a balance between a student's academic and social development.
Student Sport:	Service Provider for Student Sport (not TuksSport).
Stuku:	Service Provider for Student Culture.
Tukkiewerf:	Building in which certain offices of the DSA are based.
TuksFM:	Official student radio station (Service Provider).
TuksRag:	Service Provider for "Reach out and Give".
TuksRes:	The Department of Residence Affairs and Accommodation is a stand-alone business unit, with various management teams serving residence students.
TuksToonbank:	Division of the Department of Finance based at Tukkiewerf which offers financial services to all student organisations.
UP:	University of Pretoria.

5. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

5.1 Governing documents

5.1.1 Strategic Plan of the University of Pretoria

5.1.2 Constitution for Student Governance

5.2 Related documents

5.2.1 Policy on Day Houses (*Rt 457/10 (amended)*)

5.2.2 Policy on Faculty Houses (*Rt 458/10 (amended)*)

5.2.3 Policy on Societies (*Rt 459/10 (amended)*)

5.2.4 Policy on Service Providers (*Rt 460/10 (amended)*)

5.2.4 Policy on Student Leadership Development and Training (*Rt 461/10 (amended)*)

- 5.2.5 Student Complaints Protocol (*Rt 462/10 (amended)*)
- 5.2.6 TuksRes Guide (latest version)
- 5.2.7 Policy on the Abuse of Alcohol and Drugs (to be finalised)

6. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Dean of Students.

7. POLICY LIFE CYCLE

The policy may be reviewed every two years or as the need arises.

8. DOCUMENT METADATA

Document	
Number:	<i>Rt 456/10</i>
Version:	<i>Final</i>
Role players	
Owner:	<i>Department of Student Affairs</i>
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Recommended	
<i>Senate Committee</i>	<i>Senate Committee for Student Life</i>
Date:	<i>2010-10-18</i>
Approval	
<i>Executive</i>	
Meeting reference number:	<i>Rt 456/10 (amended)</i>
Date:	<i>2010-10-05 (Rt 464/10) & 2010-10-19 (Rt 483/10)</i>
Announced	
Date of announcement:	<i>20-10-19</i>
Effective from	
Implementation date:	<i>2011-10-19 for 2011</i>
Review	
Next review date:	<i>2012-10-01</i>
Last review date:	
Last reviewer:	
Successions	
<i>Superseded (this document has been replaced):</i>	<i>New document</i>
<i>Supersede (this document replaces):</i>	<i>New document</i>
Revoke	
Cancellation date:	