



Rensselaer Union
Executive Board

Club Review Based on Current Club Classifications

Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Christopher J Markum

Members: Caitlin Kennedy, Chris Maria, Ezra Teboul, Andrew Waltzer,
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Purpose

The Rensselaer Union has been at the center of student life since its inception. Being the primary resource for student groups, club and activities on campus, it has had the honor of being able to be the home of some of the longest running student groups on campus. However, as the times have progressed so have our Club Classifications policies. As such, it was found necessary to engage in a comprehensive review of clubs and organizations in accordance with current policies.

On October 20th 2016, the Rensselaer Union Executive board approved the most recent version of the Club Classifications policy. This document outlines the duties and responsibilities of the club/student group and to what extent the organization can be affiliated and considered a part of the Rensselaer Union. Under the current Club Classifications policy there are two designations for a club to seek under the Rensselaer Union: affiliation or recognition. A Rensselaer Union recognized club is able to receive funding from the Rensselaer Union Executive Board, however is bound to more union policies. An affiliated organization is able to use the resources of the union, however cannot receive funding.

On January 18th 2018 the Executive Board heard the last of three presentations made by a group of individuals looking to become an affiliated group. It was determined by the Rensselaer Union Executive Board that this group did not meet the criteria and standards for an organization to be affiliated by the Rensselaer Union.

This decision brought with it a question regarding all Rensselaer Union Clubs and Organizations. Since the Union has such a rich history of club activity including many clubs whose inceptions where much before the approval of the most recent Club Classifications policy, were all of those organizations in compliance? Thus the Ad Hoc Committee was created.

Review Criteria

When looking through all of the clubs that currently are in operation within the Rensselaer Union, there were several factors that were considered, the first being safety. How safe were the club's operations and how were they working to mitigate the risks the club may be taking? This was to ensure that all club activities were up to the most recent risk management policies put forth from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The second factor that the committee considered was the inclusivity of the club on a local level. Was the club open to all people within the Rensselaer Union? Was the organization perpetuating a culture of hate within the student body? Was the organization causing individuals to leave Rensselaer? These were all questions posed when evaluating the club on the local level.

The final factor was evaluating any national organizations that may have direct affiliations to clubs within the Rensselaer Union. As stated in the Club Classifications policy, all local, regional and national organizations that are supporting a group within the Rensselaer Union are held to the same standards of the club within the Union.

When grading each of the organizations, each was placed into one of three categories. A “LOW” was assigned to those organizations which have not had any issues in the past and the committee saw no potential for issues to arise moving forward. A “MEDIUM” rating was assigned to those club who had either had some sort of issue in the past, or the committee saw a potential for an issue in the future. Finally, a “HIGH” rating was given to those organizations who the committee felt were in direct violation of the Club Classification policy that should be addressed immediately.

Findings and Recommended Actions

When evaluating almost 300 clubs and organizations, there were only three clubs that stood out to the committee, and none of those three were close to receiving a high rating. The three organizations are detailed below.

Alpha Delta Phi Society –

This organization was given a medium status based on the reputation of its national organization. In many situations across other college campuses the Alpha Delta Phi Society is known for just being another coed Fraternity, and is occasionally cited for unacceptable behavior, and acting as if the organizational was a social Fraternity. Their local Chapter has had no indication of moving toward this type of behavior, however it is something to take note of. *The committee recommends no action is taken involving this organization.*

CRU RPI –

This organization was given a medium status based on some historical events. There was evidence of potential exclusion of individuals within the Rensselaer Union. However, it is also noted that these events did not happen within the last two years and the club has been known recently to be one of the most welcoming on campus. *The committee recommends that no action is taken involving this organization.*

Students for a Sensible Drug Policy –

This organization was given a medium status based on the topic in which the organization is based around. As stated in the club constitution and the founding principles, the club is of no risk. However, the committee was concerned that all rules were being followed and that these founding principles were being upheld. *The Committee recommends that the club obtains a faculty advisor with experience in the medical field that maintains contact with the club officers.*

Conclusion-

The Ad Hoc Committee has found that all clubs and organizations currently operating within the Rensselaer Union are in accordance with the current Club Classifications policy. Moving forward, the committee recommends a thorough review of all potential clubs and organizations to ensure the compliance with the current Club Classifications policy.

Committee Approves 5-0-0 on March 29th 2018.