

CODE CHANGES 2020: RESOURCE GROUPS

TO: Council
FROM: Operations Committee
April 2020

Amendment to update the Resource Group provisions and allow clubs to apply to become a Resource Group after one year instead of two.

Additions are indicated by ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated by striking through (~~this~~).

SECTION XI: STUDENT RESOURCE GROUPS

Article 1. General Provisions

1. Council may, by a Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution, declare an organization to be, or to no longer be, a Student Resource Group, provided that the Operations Committee has previously recommended such action by a Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution. Should Council so declare, paragraph 4 below shall be deemed to be amended.
2. The Operations Committee **may** ~~shall not~~ recommend that an organization become a Student Resource Group **if unless**:
 - (a) the purpose of the proposed Resource Group is clearly defined and does not overlap with the purpose of an already existing Resource Group;
 - (b) the proposed Resource Group has already been constituted as a Club, and has been in existence for a minimum of **one (1) year** ~~two (2) years~~;
 - (c) the proposed Resource Group's finances are in good order, as determined by the Vice-President Finance; and
 - (d) the Resource Group Allocation Committee has recommended that the proposed Resource Group become a Resource Group.
3. The Operations Committee shall not recommend that an organization cease to be a Student Resource Group unless such a cessation is approved by a Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution of the Resource Group Allocation Committee and a Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution of the Operations Committee.
4. The following organizations shall be the Student Resource Groups of the Society:
 - (a) Pride UBC;
 - (b) the Social Justice Centre;
 - (c) the Student Environment

- Centre; (d) the Women's Centre;
- (e) Colour Connected Against Racism.

5. Student Resource Groups shall:

- (a) research, provide information and raise awareness on social issues of concern to the membership, as defined by the mandate of the Resource Group;
- (b) be involved in social issues relevant to society at large;
- (c) provide services to the membership, including but not limited to information seminars, public speeches and discussion groups; and

- (d) propose and lobby for policy changes within the Society, the University, and society at large.
6. The views expressed by the Resource Groups do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Society.
 7. A Resource Group's objectives and activities shall not be contrary to the Constitution, Bylaws or Code of Procedure of the Society.
 8. Any correspondence by a Student Resource Group on official letterhead of the Society shall indicate that its views do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Society.
 9. Membership in all Resource Groups shall be open to all Active Members of the Society. This provision notwithstanding, a Resource Group may, in its constitution, limit, for specifically defined groups of members:
 - (a) access to specific areas of that same Resource Group's space – or attendance at specifically defined events or activities (excluding general meetings) of that Resource Group – but only in the interests of preserving and protecting the mental, emotional, or physical security of other members of said Resource Group; and
 - (b) the ability to hold an executive position on that same Resource Group, but only in the interests of preserving and protecting the mandate of said Resource Group as set out in its constitution.
 10. On receipt of a complaint about the application of paragraph 9 above, the Operations Committee may direct the Resource Group to respond to the complaint in writing and may, by a Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution, recommend that Council take further action in the matter.
 11. On receipt of the Resolution referred to in paragraph 10 above, Council may, by a Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution, take such action as it sees fit.
 12. Each Resource Group shall establish its own rules, regulations, and procedures, and shall record those rules, regulations, and procedures in a constitution or other similar document which it shall submit to the Operations Committee for information purposes. Any amendments to the constitution or other document shall also be submitted to the Operations Committee. In the event that such amendments significantly alter the purposes of the Resource Group, the Operations Committee may, by a Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution, recommend to Council that it reject the amendments. After such a

recommendation from the Operations Committee, Council may reject such amendments by a Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution.

13. The rules, regulations, and procedures of a Resource Group must ensure that it operates democratically and must also ensure that only those members of the Resource Group who are Active Members of the Society shall:
 - (a) exercise voting rights at Resource Group meetings and other Resource Group events; and
 - (b) hold Executive positions, or similar positions, within the Resource Group.
14. On receipt of a written complaint that a Resource Group is not complying with the requirements in paragraphs 12 and 13 above, or is not following its own rules, regulations, or procedures, the Operations Committee may direct the Resource Group to respond to the complaint in writing and may, by a Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution, recommend that Council take further action in the matter.
15. On receipt of the Resolution referred to in paragraph 14, Council may, by a Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution, take such action as it sees fit to ensure compliance with the requirements set out in paragraphs 12 and 13 above and with the rules, regulations, or procedures of the Resource Group.

Article 2. Space and Promotion

1. Student Resource Groups shall be granted office space in the AMS Student Nest by the Operations Committee without having to apply for it annually. **Such office space shall be subject to rules in the Operations Committee Policy Manual and other AMS Policies and Procedures**, and shall be open to inspection by the **Vice President Administration or Building Operations Manager** ~~Operations Committee~~ in the same manner as Club office space, provided that two weeks' notice is given.
2. The Operations Committee shall ensure that Student Resource Groups be given priority over Clubs with regard to booking space in the AMS Student Nest. Such priority shall include, but is not limited to, allowing the Student Resource Groups advance booking opportunities prior to the opportunities set aside for Clubs. However, the Operations Committee may restrict the number of advance bookings granted to each Resource Group, ~~and may specify rooms or areas of the AMS Student Nest which are not available for advance booking.~~
3. Space shall be made available to the Student Resource Groups on the Society's website, in its newsletter, and in other communications media as appropriate to allow the Resource Groups to publicize their events and activities.

Article 3. Financing and Governance Communication

1. ~~Instead of Resource Groups applying for funding,~~ Council shall annually budget for and provide **Resource Groups** ~~them~~ with **an annual** lump-sum allocation. This allocation shall not be reduced from the amount allocated in the previous fiscal year except by a specific Two-thirds (2/3) Resolution of Council.
2. Council's approved lump-sum allocation shall be divided among the Resource Groups by the Resource Group Allocation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "RGAC"), composed of one voting member elected or appointed by and from each Resource Group. ~~In the event that a representative has not been elected, the Resource Group executive shall appoint a representative from that Resource Group.~~ **The Vice-President Finance shall notify the RGAC of the total of the lump-sum allocation, and the total of the Resource Group Event Fund by June 30th of each fiscal year.** The RGAC shall divide the lump-sum allocation based on budget proposals submitted to it by the individual Resource Groups. ~~In dividing the lump-sum allocation, the RGAC shall assign no more than eighty percent (80%) of it to the Resource Groups; the remainder shall be placed in the Resource Group Event Fund.~~
3. The RGAC shall notify the Vice-President Finance of how the lump-sum allocation is to be divided as soon as the RGAC has made its decision on this issue, so that the money can be distributed to the appropriate Resource Group accounts and the Resource Group Event Fund. Such notification shall be in writing ~~and be signed by each voting member of the RGAC who voted in favour of the decision,~~ and shall include copies of the Resource Group budgets as approved by the RGAC. **Allocations into the appropriate Resource Group accounts by the Vice-President Finance are to be completed within seven (7) business days of receiving notice.**
4. The Resource Groups through their treasurers and the RGAC shall **submit financial reports to the Finance Committee twice per fiscal year, one in March and one in October** ~~prepare financial reports twice per fiscal year, one to cover May to October and to be submitted to the Finance Committee at least one week before the last Council meeting in November, and one to cover November to April and to be submitted to the Finance Committee at least one week before the last Council meeting in August.~~
5. The financial reports from each of the Resource Groups shall be compiled and combined into one report by the Vice-President Finance and shall be included in the general financial reports made by the Finance Committee to Council.
6. In addition to the powers and duties set out above, the RGAC shall:
 - (a) determine its own procedures and meeting dates, provided ~~however that its quorum be no less than seventy-five percent (75%) of its voting members;~~

~~and~~ that resolutions of the RGAC must receive a majority of votes of all members, ~~including absent members~~, to be considered adopted;

- (b) manage and allocate the Resource Group Event Fund, subject to the Fund's description in Section IX B of the Code;
 - (c) facilitate communication between the Resource Groups;
 - (d) act as a liaison between the Resource Groups and the Operations Committee, by doing such things as providing Resource Group contact numbers to the Operations Committee; and
 - (e) have such other powers and duties as are outlined in the Bylaws or Code or are assigned by Council from time to time.
7. A new Student Resource Group, created by Council under Article 1(1) above, shall not be eligible for funding until the following fiscal year unless such funding has been approved by the RGAC in a manner consistent with this Article.
8. No Resource Group shall make any expenditure or incur any liability that puts it into a deficit situation, unless such deficit has been approved by the Finance Committee.
9. Executive positions within Resource Groups must be voluntary and Executives must not receive salary or honoraria from the Resource Groups in their role as Executives.
10. Resource Groups may not hire their own Executives or enter into any contract providing compensation for services provided by their own Executives outside of the Executives' regular duties unless the payment for such services would total \$100 or less **and a contractor's agreement is signed.** ~~(in 2014 dollars).~~ This provision notwithstanding, Resource Groups may pay an Executive more than \$100 for such services if permission is granted in writing by the **Operations Committee** ~~Human Resources Committee~~. Such permission shall only be granted if both the **Operations Committee** ~~Human Resources Committee~~ and the RGAC pass Two-Thirds (2/3) Resolutions granting permission.
11. The process of making the payments referred to in paragraph 10 above shall be facilitated by the **RGAC** ~~Human Resources Committee~~.
12. In the event that the Resource Groups choose to hire an individual **on a part-time or full-time basis**, the hiring process shall be facilitated by the ~~Senior Manager~~ of **AMS Human Resources Department**.
13. If a Resource Group does not spend all the money budgeted for it in a fiscal year, the unspent money shall be transferred to the Resource Group Event Fund.

14. If a Resource Group does not submit its budget and financial reports to the Vice-President Finance, its constitution and executive list to the Operations Committee, or any other documents as required by the Code, its financial account shall be frozen until it submits the required document or documents.

Article 4. Autonomy

1. Neither the Operations Committee, the Finance Committee, an Executive nor the Executive Committee shall interfere with the discharge of duties by the RGAC specified in this section.
2. A Resolution made by the Operations Committee with respect to Student Resource Groups on an issue not dealt with in this section is not effective or enforceable until it has been ratified by a specific Resolution of Council.