9 Principles of ESM SA Student Organizations

The ESM Students’ Association aims to support an organizational system allowing undergraduate students to pursue their interests while focusing their energy in ways that create community and support student life at Eastman. The 9 Principles of Student Organizations were designed to encourage collaboration, community-directed programming, and fewer self-serving activities. In order to gain Students’ Association recognition, an organization must fulfill all Principles.

1. A CLEAR AND FOCUSED MISSION
All student organizations must have a clear and focused mission statement in their constitutions. Mission Statements should enhance the educational goals of the University of Rochester and Eastman School of Music as well as improve the campus community and undergraduate experience. Without a clear and focused mission, a student organization has no direction and no purpose on campus. Each organization must fill a unique and specific niche, and their specific intent must be clearly defined in the mission statement. All organizations are expected to operate within their stated missions.

2. COMMUNITY-FOCUSED SPENDING
Each SA funded group must serve the diverse members of the SA. Groups that simply consume SA funding solely on their members are of no value to the general student body or the betterment of the campus community. This community-focused spending can take many forms, including educational opportunities, skills training, community building or social activities, and entertainment. SA funded groups must also educate the general student body about the group’s mission, activities, and goals to ensure a diverse learning experience for all students on campus.

3. MEMBERSHIP
All student organizations are required to maintain and demonstrate a general membership sufficient to accomplish their missions and meet the Principles of ESM SA Student Organizations. To ensure accurate reporting, members of an organization must confirm their involvement in the organization. Without sufficient membership, too much strain is put on active members with less than desirable results. Also, inadequate membership is a sign that an organization is not unique enough, fulfilling a campus need, or sustainable, meaning potential members may be affiliated with a similar organization or there is simply not enough interest on campus. In order to remain an active student organization, groups must demonstrate that they have at least 8 active general members in addition to the organization’s elected executive board.

4. INCLUSION
All student organizations must be actively inclusive and welcoming of the diversity of all undergraduate students. The Eastman Students’ Association shall not discriminate against any person for any reason including race, religion, color, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, handicap, age, or political affiliation. No division or group that is governed by the Eastman Students’ Association shall discriminate against any person for any reason, including race, religion, color, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, handicap, age, or political affiliation. All organizations must add to the quality of life on campus for every student and for this to be possible, inclusion is necessary. Organizations in violation of this will not be funded and risk de-recognition as a student organization. All organizations must also make the effort to be
accessible to the student body through programming, publications, activities, and collaboration. Organizations whose membership is exclusive in nature are not eligible for SA funds.

5. UNIQUENESS
All student organizations must be unique and distinct from all other student organizations. This is necessary to prevent too many similar organizations. Similar organizations pull similar members, so the membership of each organization suffers. Student organizations that spark the creation of infinitely more or similar organizations will not be granted SA recognition. If the number of student organizations is not kept under control, resources such as space, money, advisors, and advisor time begin to run out and every organization on campus suffers. Student organizations that overlap, duplicate, or compete with the academic mission of Eastman School of Music will not be granted SA recognition.

6. PROGRAMMING, ACTIVITIES and COLLABORATION (PPAC)
All student organizations are required to demonstrate through initiatives, programs, events, and meetings that they are active within the campus community and enhancing student life. Without this an organization is inactive, ineffective, and not inclusive. Collaboration and co-sponsorship among organizations has been found to be successful at community building. Collaboration also sparks dialogue, connections, and saves resources on campus. In order to improve the quality of life on campus, it is important for all student organizations to be collaborative within the campus community. SA funded groups are strongly encouraged to collaborate with other groups on their initiatives, programs, events, or major expenses. The goals of this principle are:
   a. To promote, establish, and maintain new and existing relationships between organizations;
   b. To maximize the benefit to students realized by the combining of funds and other resources;
   c. To encourage the creative exchange of ideas between many groups;
   d. To increase awareness by student organizations of each other’s programming calendar, thereby indirectly creating a well-planned and balanced calendar of events throughout the academic year.

7. FUTURE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
All student organizations must invest in the future leadership of the organization in order to maintain their recognized status. This should include recruitment, leadership opportunities, training, transitioning and developing members. Such activities are essential to enhance an organization’s chance of succeeding and persisting. When an organization gains SA recognition, they are expected to remain a successful organization on campus for years to come. However, if there is no future leadership development, success is not possible, and SA de-recognition is possible.

8. EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT
All student organizations are required to evaluate their programs, publications, activities, and collaborations. Organizations that evaluate and assess their mission, constitution, programs, publications, activities, and collaborations are able to evolve and remain sustainable. All organizations must evaluate themselves and what they have done in the past in order to continually improve. They also must assess themselves to make sure they have not strayed too far from their original mission.

9. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
After a group is awarded funding, it may spend that funding however it sees fit, so long as those expenditures do not violate general SA Spending Guidelines or University Finance Policies. These groups are not to be judged for straying from their budgets – such a rule can stifle creativity. Rather, they will be judged on their ability to adhere to these SA Principles; accomplish the items listed in their mission statements; and use their resources in a fiscally responsible, reasonable, and forward-looking manner. Total spending should not exceed the group’s allocated budget, and expenses should not be extravagant.