

Policy on Community Affinity Groups

Oversight Body: External & Mobilization Committee

Date Passed by Council: April 2026

Date of Next Review: April 2028

Related Documents: CSU By-Laws; Policy on Executive, Council of Representatives, and Committees; Finance & Operations Policy; Policy on Positions Held by the Union; CSU Positions Book; Policy on Policy Development and Review.

Definitions

“Community Affinity Group” A collective, campaign, or organization operating independently of the CSU that seeks formal recognition and collaboration based on shared political alignment.

“External & Mobilization Committee (EMC)” The Standing Committee responsible for external political engagement, mobilization, and allocation of funding under this policy.

“Positions Book” The official compilation of political positions adopted by CSU membership

“Alignment” Demonstrable consistency between a group’s activities, positions, and public communications and the CSU Positions Book.

“Sponsorship” Administrative or logistical support provided by the CSU, including space booking assistance, tabling, poster, and promotional amplification.

“Conflict of Interest” A situation in which a decision-maker has a personal, financial, or organizational interest that may impair impartial decision-making.

Purpose

This policy establishes a clear and accountable framework for recognizing Community Affinity Groups aligned with CSU positions. It serves to define the rights and responsibilities of recognized groups and regulate their access to funding, resources, and institutional support. It ensures ongoing alignment and accountability by facilitating structured collaboration between the CSU and external political initiatives.

Scope

This policy applies to the External & Mobilization Committee, the External & Mobilization Coordinator, the Campaigns Coordinator and Campaigns Department the Council of Representatives, and all recognized Community Affinity Groups.

Policy Statement

Section 1. Recognition of Community Affinity Groups

- 1.1 The CSU may recognize Community Affinity Groups that demonstrate substantive alignment with the Positions Book.
- 1.2 Recognition requires approval by a simple majority vote of the EMC and ratification by the Council of Representatives.
- 1.3 Recognition is valid for one (1) academic year.
- 1.4 Recognition must be renewed annually in accordance with Section 6.

Section 2: Application Requirements

- 2.1 Applicants must submit a complete application including:
 - 2.1.2 A proposed annual budget outlining projected revenues and expenses;
 - 2.1.3 A description of the organization, including mandate(s), governance structure, and history;
 - 2.1.4 Demonstrated alignment with specific CSU Positions;
 - 2.1.5 Evidence of at least two (2) consecutive years of active organizing or advocacy.Acceptable evidence of activity includes, but is not limited to:
 - 2.1.5.1 Public campaigns or events;
 - 2.1.5.2 Communications or publications;
 - 2.1.5.3 Partnerships or collaborations;
 - 2.1.5.4 Advocacy initiatives;

2.1.5.5 Financial or operational records.

2.2 Applications must be submitted no later than June 30 for recognition in the subsequent Fall semester.

2.3 The EMC may request additional information where necessary to assess an application, provided such requests do not intentionally and unreasonably delay the process.

Section 3: Review, Renewal, and Revocation

3.1 All recognized groups shall undergo an annual review conducted by the EMC. The review shall assess:

3.1.1 Continued alignment with the Positions Book;

3.1.2 Appropriate use of funds;

3.1.3 Completion of reporting requirements.

3.2 Following review, recognition may be renewed, suspended, or revoked.

3.2.1. Revocation requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the EMC and ratification by Council.

3.2.2 Any decision to suspend or revoke recognition must include written justification.

3.2.3 Recognized groups shall have the right to respond through the Judicial Board process.

Section 4: Funding and Budget Use

4.1 Recognized groups may apply for funding through the External & Mobilization budget.

4.1.2 Funding shall be allocated from the Campaigns budget line, comply with the Finance & Operations Policy, and be distributed through reimbursement or approved honoraria.

4.1.2 Funding shall not be used for:

4.1.2.1 Partisan electoral campaigning;

4.1.2.2 Unauthorized personal compensation;

4.1.2.3 Activities contrary to CSU Positions;

4.1.2.4 Controlled substances, or single-use plastics.

4.2 Recognized groups must submit an end-of-year report by April 15 including:

- 4.2.1 Itemized expenditures;
- 4.2.2 Summary of political impact;
- 4.2.3 Documentation of activities.

Section 5: Communications and Promotion

- 5.1 Recognized groups shall be granted access to promotion through official CSU channels, including the CSU newsletter, official social media platforms, and the CSU website
- 5.2 All promotional content must align with CSU Positions and communications standards.
- 5.3 The CSU shall maintain an updated and publicly accessible webpage listing all recognized groups, mandates, and contact information.

Section 6: Sponsorship and Logistical Support

- 6.1 Recognized groups may request CSU sponsorship for:
 - 6.1.2 Space and table bookings, subject to university and CSU policies;
 - 6.1.3 Postering and promotional distribution through the Campaigns Department.
- 6.2 Sponsorship does not imply legal responsibility for independent activities nor guarantee approval of space bookings.
- 6.3 The CSU shall make reasonable efforts to support logistical requests within institutional constraints.

Section 7: Transparency and Conflict of Interest

- 7.1 The External & Mobilization Coordinator shall report regularly to the Council on funding allocations and activities of recognized groups where relevant to funding approvals.
- 7.2 EMC members must declare a Conflict of Interest where they have:
 - 7.2.1 Membership, leadership, or advisory roles in an applicant group;

- 7.2.2 A financial relationship with the group;
- 7.2.3 A personal relationship that may impair impartiality.

7.3 Members in conflict must:

- 7.3.1 Declare the conflict prior to deliberation;
- 7.3.2 Recuse themselves from discussion and voting;
- 7.3.3 Be recorded as recused in official minutes.
- 7.3.4 Failure to declare a conflict may result in review by Council or the Judicial Board.

Section 8: Cap on Recognized Groups

- 8.1 The CSU shall recognize no more than five (5) Community Affinity Groups per academic year.
- 8.2 Council may amend this cap by ordinary resolution based on budgetary considerations, administrative capacity, and demonstrated demand.
- 8.3 The cap shall not prevent renewal of existing groups unless the group fails annual review or declines renewal.

Section 9: Suspension Measures

- 9.1 The EMC may temporarily suspend recognition where there is:
 - 9.1.2 Action directly contradicting CSU Positions;
 - 9.1.3 Credible evidence of financial misconduct;
 - 9.1.4 Material misrepresentation in an application.
- 9.2 Suspension must:
 - 9.2.1 Be ratified by Council at the next regular meeting;
 - 9.2.2 Include written justification;
 - 9.2.3 Provide the group an opportunity to respond through the Judicial Board.