CATEGORIES OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

**Academic**—student organizations that have an interest in a specific academic discipline, topic or interest.

**Advocacy**—student organizations that further the progress of an idea or initiative to affect the community at large (political, environmental responsibility, social equity, economic stability, etc.)

**Arts & Literature**—student organizations that encourage participation in and promotion and support of the visual and performing arts.

**Competitive Club Sport**—competitive clubs play against teams outside of the University of Pittsburgh, usually other collegiate clubs, as part of a structured regional or national league. Competitive clubs MUST be part of a National Governing Body. Many competitive clubs have coaches, travel and play off-campus, and conduct regularly scheduled practices. Competitive club sports also typically involve a greater financial commitment and time commitment, both in number of days per week and a longer period of time for the season.

**Ethnic/Cultural**—student organizations whose primary focus is on a specific culture, nationality or ethnicity in order to provide education, advocacy, support, and camaraderie. Many of these organizations provide programming designed to promote awareness and understanding of beliefs, values, and traditions that may differ from other cultures.

**Honorary**—student organizations whose primary focus is on conferring membership as an honor for academic/scholarly/leadership achievement.

**Recreational Club Sport**—recreational clubs focus more on instructional aspects and recreational play of the sport or nature of the club/activity they are associated with. Recreational clubs DO NOT travel.

**Spiritual/Faith Based**—student organizations whose primary focus is on educating about and supporting particular spiritual and/or religious practices, philosophies and beliefs.

**Service**—student organizations whose primary focus is on providing volunteer service to others within the local community and/or nationally.

**Social Fraternity/Sorority**—student organizations whose membership is limited to a single gender and granted exception to Title IX requirements for the purpose of cultivating and supporting an environment of brotherhood or sisterhood. Qualification for membership of social fraternity/sorority is on a non-honorary basis and are determined by the chapter. In addition, membership in one social fraternity or sorority in this category is mutually exclusive to membership in another social fraternity/sorority, but students who are in social
fraternity/sorority may seek membership in an honorary, service, or professional fraternity/sorority. Student organizations in this category must be affiliated and meet recognition standards with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life within the Office of Cross-Cultural and Leadership Development.

**Fraternity and Sorority chapters will be represented by their respective governing Councils at Activities Fairs. These Councils fall under the Student Governance category.**

*Special Interest*—student organizations that encourage social interaction around a shared interest or theme.

*Student Governance*—student organizations whose primary focus is on representing students, expressing student opinion and providing student feedback to the University and its various components.