

**RELIGIOUS LIFE COUNCIL  
SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY**

**PURPOSE:**

1. The Religious Life Council exists to promote and enhance:
  - a) the Mission of Salem State University, by providing necessary information about religious groups that seek to be present on the campus.
  - b) the quality of religious life on the campus by working with all religious groups that serve here.
2. The Religious Life Council exists to assist and advise administrative officers in the case of difficulties and disputes between groups or individuals.
3. The Council recommends to the Administration formal recognition of a religious organization.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

The Religious Life Council is composed of religious professionals recognized by the Administration of the University and selected professionals from representative local Churches and Synagogues in the Salem area. Members shall be appointed by the President of the University.

**MEETINGS:**

1. The Religious Life Council shall meet at the request of the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students, and as necessary to conduct business.
2. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum at any regular meeting.

**DUTIES:**

1. The Council shall review and adopt Guidelines for Religious Groups on the Salem State University campus which shall apply to all student groups which are registered through the Office of Campus Center Programs and Services as well as other Campus Ministry professional organizations which operate out of the Division of Student Life.
2. The Council shall review the applications of student religious groups seeking recognition as official groups and clubs through the Office of the Associate Director of Campus Center Program and Services. Once reviewed, the Council will advise, as appropriate, the Associate Director who will then exercise final approval authority. Those non-student professional clergy seeking affiliation with the department of Campus Ministries shall also be reviewed by the Council including references and a thorough review of their mission and religious activities.

3. The Council shall discuss activities deemed destructive to the University, other religious groups and/or individuals and shall work with the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students or other University officials to promote healthy, public religious life on the campus in accordance with the mission of the University as a public institution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### **GUIDELINES FOR RELIGIOUS GROUPS ON CAMPUS**

Salem State University recognizes that the religious dimension of a student's life can be an important one. Therefore, the University welcomes religious professionals to the campus to be accessible to students in order to clarify religious questions and to be available to the entire campus community as a pastoral resource.

If there are practices or behaviors which are detrimental or injurious to students and others at the University or which are clearly and demonstrably contrary to the essential purposes for which the University exists, the University has the right to provide guidelines and control of such behavior. When another's actions adversely affect the public welfare, the morals, or the public health and safety of members of the campus community, such actions will not be allowed to continue.

### **WHAT CONSTITUTES BEHAVIOR WHICH IS INJURIOUS TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND PUBLIC WELFARE OF THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY?**

1. All forms of harassment and proselytizing.
2. Actions which adversely impact the academic or vocational pursuits of students.
3. Actions which remove students by pressure or force from the campus for extended periods of time without their consent.
4. Actions which adversely impact the financial status of students.
5. Engaging in false or deceptive promotions or advertising concerning a group or its activities.
6. Intruding by visit, phone call, or mail into residence halls or other private areas in which students should properly expect privacy.
7. The importation of non-students or others unrelated to the college experience who pose as students for the sake of solicitation.
8. Seeking to force or coerce, either physically or emotionally, by soliciting or enlisting someone who is currently engaged in one religious activity into a different organization or activity.