

NUMBER: STAF 1.01
SECTION: Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support
SUBJECT: Registered Status for Religious Workers
DATE: June 1, 1992
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Policy for: Columbia Campus
Procedure for: Columbia Campus
Authorized by: Vice President for Student Affairs
Issued by: Student Life and Development

I. Policy

The University of South Carolina has an educational mission to provide active support and encouragement of spiritual and religious development among its students, faculty, and staff. The aims of higher education include growth in awareness of a variety of religious commitments and practices so that students may develop understanding of their own personal commitments, as well as respect for the commitments of others in the community. While professing no institutional preference, the university seeks to provide as much opportunity as possible for the articulation and expression of alternative and contrasting religious beliefs and practices.

As an integral part of this support and encouragement, the administration has established a policy of mutual benefit to both the university and the denominations, religions, and other religious groups sponsoring religious workers on campus. The university recognizes those persons who are properly qualified and accredited by their respective agencies. Furthermore, it extends the privilege of campus access and the opportunity to use university facilities as the registered religious workers minister to students, faculty, and staff.

Sponsors are expected to maintain rigid standards of accreditation and high levels of professional competency for their appointed religious workers. They should ensure that their appointees have a genuine concern for the total religious life of the campus and a desire to work in harmony and cooperation with other registered religious workers with respect for the integrity of the individual, other traditions, and the wider community of learning. Such a mutual relationship of work as this campus ministry requires places certain obligations on both the university and the agencies providing religious workers at the university.

II. Procedure

- A. Denominations, religions, and other religious groups affiliated with a registered student organization desiring university registered status for a religious worker shall submit a letter of appointment to the Vice President for Student Affairs from the appropriate

national or regional organization. The letter should name the appointed religious worker and include:

1. Certification that the appointee has appropriate training or ordination as required by appointing organizations;
 2. Indication of the ministry's relationship to a registered student organization;
 3. Agreement that the appointee will abide by University of South Carolina regulations; and
 4. Agreement that appointee will submit an annual report to the chair of the University Committee on Religious Affairs and the Vice President for Student Affairs using the format provided by the Division of Student Affairs.
- B. Upon receipt of a formal request for registered status, the petition shall be forwarded to the University Committee on Religious Affairs (herein after referred to as the Committee) that shall determine whether it meets the established criteria. The criteria are:
1. Official appointment or endorsement by the appropriate national or regional organization;
 2. Appropriate training or ordination as required by the religious organization;
 3. Evidence of willingness to work in cooperation with the university and to abide by university policies;
 4. Evidence of desire to work in harmony with other registered religious workers; and
 5. Affiliation with a registered student organization or group of students working toward registered status (minimum of ten students).
- C. In addition, the Committee will verify that the ministry being petitioned is not already represented on campus. In general, not more than two persons from the same denomination, religion, or religious group will be registered as religious worker(s). When two religious workers are affiliated with a registered student organization (or group seeking registered status), the appointing agency should designate which person will serve as the university's registered religious worker and advisor to the student organization (or group seeking registered status).
- D. Following the review of a petition, the Committee will advise the Vice President for Student Affairs that the criteria have been met or identify the unmet criteria. The Vice President has authority to recognize religious workers and may choose to interview personally the candidates during the review process. The appointing agency will be notified of the approval of its petition (or criteria unmet if the petition is not favorably recommended by the Committee) by a letter from the Vice President. A copy of the letter

will be sent to the University President, the Chair of the Committee on Religious Affairs, the Religious Worker's Liaison, and the Chair of Carolina Campus Ministries. The appointing agency may appeal a negative decision to the President.

- E. Registered religious workers shall be designated by the Committee as religious workers as noted below:
1. The religious worker shall have an ecclesiastical appointment by the national or regional sponsoring body as a campus minister to the university and shall be responsible to an officer of that body or a committee established by it.
 2. The religious worker shall have ordination and/or licensure by the sponsoring religious organization.
 3. The religious worker shall assume responsibility for any staff associates working with his/her organization on campus.
 4. The religious worker shall advise the program of a registered student religious organization or shall submit the names and signatures of ten currently enrolled students who endorse the program of the religious worker and are working toward registered student organization status.
- F. Registered religious workers will be encouraged to participate in Carolina Campus Ministries, which is open to all persons recognized by the University Committee on Religious Affairs for registered status. Upon receipt of a copy of the Vice President's letter granting registered status, the religious worker's liaison will:
1. Notify the personnel office to authorize ID cards for religious workers, religious counselors, and staff associates.
 2. Send the names of all newly registered religious workers to:
 - a. The director of Parking and Vehicle Registration for issuance of appropriate parking decals and the Office of Communications for inclusion in the campus telephone directory; and
 - b. The Chair of Carolina Campus Ministries for invitation to participate in the Association.
 3. Ensure that all newly registered religious workers receive official university bulletins and announcements.
- G. Privileges of Registered Status: The university will grant to religious workers and religious counselors, the following rights and privileges on campus:

1. Use of available university facilities as needed in their programs in accordance with usual university administrative procedures and signature authority as advisor to a registered student organization (or group seeking registered status);
2. Listing in appropriate university publications such as the campus telephone directory;
3. Inclusion on the distribution list for official university bulletins and announcements circulated among faculty and staff;
4. Access to religious preference information within the provisions of the Buckley Amendment, and South Carolina state law.
5. Staff parking privileges on the campus; and
6. Such other privileges as may be recommended by the Committee on Religious Affairs and approved by the Vice President for Student Affairs.

H. Responsibilities of Registered Status: Registered religious workers will accept responsibility for ministry to the religious life of the university community and the growth and development of the individual student. This responsibility obligates registered religious workers to:

1. Provide opportunity for religious instruction and worship in the tradition of the sponsoring body in a manner which contributes to the students' moral, spiritual, and general development;
2. Maintain respect for the diversity of religious commitments found in the campus community;
3. Continue to work in harmony with other registered religious workers;
4. Submit an annual report to the chair of the University Committee on Religious Affairs by October 1 of each year;
5. Submit annual paperwork each year to maintain registered status.
6. Abide by all relevant University rules and regulations;
7. Represent high standards of personal, moral and ethical conduct on campus;
8. Assume responsibility for any staff associates working with his/her organization on campus.
9. Assume responsibility for annual background checks through the university on themselves and associates.

10. Senior Status: The university, through the Vice President for Student Affairs or his designee, may appoint a religious worker or counselor of long-standing in years of service to senior status. Senior status provides campus access and parking privileges and appropriate professional amenities

III. Reason for Revision

Removal of the term and definition of 'Religious Counselor' due to the status lying dormant and unused.

Responsibilities 5 and 9 were added to Section H for clarification purposes.