



**Office of the  
Vice-Provost Students**

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By email and mail

July 19, 2013

Joseph Hickey  
Executive Director  
Ontario Civil Liberties Association  
180 Metcalfe Street, Suite 204  
Ottawa, ON K2P 1P5

Dear Mr. Hickey:

I am writing at the request of President Shoukri to clarify some misconceptions contained in your June 17, 2013 letter to him regarding the context of the university's actions in suspending the student group status of SAIA and the consequences of the suspension.

To begin, the York University Senate Policy on Disruptive and/or Harassing Behaviour in Academic Situations prohibits a disturbance that disrupts any academic activity organized by the university or its units. In the case of the March 27, 2013 SAIA rally in Vari Hall, complaints regarding noise and disruption of classes were received from members of our community who were in classes proximate to the Vari Hall Rotunda. For further clarity of what the Policy provides, I enclose a copy.

I also want to make clear to you the consequences of the suspension of SAIA's student group status: student group status is established pursuant to an agreement, a copy of which is enclosed. The agreement clearly spells out that breach of applicable regulations of the university may result in the withdrawal of official recognition and associated privileges. The privileges of student group status include:

- The support of the university comprehensive Student Leadership and Community Development unit with knowledgeable staff members to encourage, assist and support student groups with matters like student group organization and events (such as tabling and rallies); and
- Access to the YUConnect online student group support system, including promotion of events and communication with current and prospective members, creation of student group specific pages that link and push to social media, and a "one stop shop" for student organization processes and membership management.



The action taken against SAIA followed repeated warnings and attempts to work with the student group to create an event which would provide a full opportunity for it to promulgate its views without disruption of academic activity. These efforts proved fruitless. Many attempts at dialogue with members of this group have been made and we remain ready and willing to continue such dialogue in the context of balancing the many individual and group rights which are asserted in the course of participation as members of our learning community.

The consequences of the suspension of student group privileges therefore means in practical terms that SAIA is not entitled to the support of university resources for its activities. It does not mean that individuals cannot continue to express their views within the university as long as they respect university rules.

I hope this letter assists your understanding of our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Janet K. Morrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Janet K. Morrison, Ph.D.  
Vice-Provost, Students  
Division of Students

Enclosures     Senate Policy on Disruptive and/or Harassing Behaviour in  
Academic Situations;  
Copy of Club Registration Form



## POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

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### Senate Policy on Disruptive and/or Harassing Behaviour in Academic Situations

**Notes:** This policy and procedures were established as a result of a report by a Senate Executive Working Group established in March, 2005 to review relevant Senate policies in the context of balancing academic integrity and the avoidance of disruption of academic activities with principles of freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. New text was proposed to address disruptions outside of a classroom or other spaces in which teaching and learning take place which are sufficiently intrusive to compromise a class or other academic activities.

Approved by Senate, October 26, 2006.

#### Policy

Senate affirms that no individual or group of individuals shall cause by action, threat or otherwise, a disturbance that obstructs any academic activity organized by the university or its units.

York is committed to policies that support the teaching and learning of controversial subject matter. Students and instructors are, however, expected to maintain a teaching and learning environment that is physically safe and conducive to effective teaching and learning for all concerned, and to be civil and respectful at all times within the learning environment, including within classrooms, laboratories, libraries, study halls and other places where academic activities are conducted and in areas proximate to those where academic activities are taking place.

It shall be the responsibility of the course director or other supervisor to determine the appropriate academic response and follow-up resulting from a disruption.

#### Procedures

##### Associated Procedures

If activities cannot continue because of a disruption within or in the vicinity of a classroom or other area where academic activities are conducted, course directors or other supervisors shall determine the appropriate immediate response. Bearing in mind the safety and security of all individuals, instructors shall take such steps as the following:

requesting that the disruption stop;

briefly suspending activities;

calling campus security.

Course directors or other supervisors shall inform the Associate Dean of their Faculty and chair of the applicable unit of any incident which has disrupted academic activities.

These principles and guidelines are intended to be remedial, rather than punitive, in nature. To the extent possible, disruptive behaviour should be addressed through mediation rather than adversarial procedures. However, depending on the behaviour, all members of the York community have recourse to University regulations (such as the Student Code of Conduct), the Criminal Code of Canada or other federal, provincial and municipal statutes.

##### Academic Response to a Disruption

If a course director or other supervisor determines that academic activities cannot continue, they shall determine an appropriate academic response. This may involve remediation (such as booking additional class time) or other academic accommodations (such as providing access to lecture notes, altering assignments or rescheduling tests). As in the case of other situations in which academic activities have been disrupted, responses to incidents of disruptive or harassing behaviour shall be based on the principles of:

- a) academic integrity of the activity;
- b) fairness to students;
- c) timely communication.

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## 2012 Student Organization Application

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- Radio Button List ?
- Text Field ?
- Drop Down List ?
- Instructions ?
- Single Check Box ?
- Ranking ?
- File Upload ?

Overview

### York University Student Organization Recognition

1. The University does not recognize all organizations who seek recognition. Recognition is granted only, if in the opinion of the Centre for Student Community & Leadership Development (SCLD), the organization meets the appropriate criteria and agrees to abide by Presidential Regulation 4, Presidential Regulation 5 and all other University policies and procedures.
2. SCLD may seek advice from campus partners prior to making its recommendation to the Director of SCLD.

All Religious/Faith-based organizations must be reviewed by the Inter-Faith Council (IFC) of York University to ensure compliance with the requirements of the IFC and an understanding and willingness to comply with the Terms of Reference of the IFC. Religious/faith-based organizations are never considered on the basis of principles of faith or beliefs but rather willingness to comply with the Three Pillars of Tolerance.

All Sports organizations will go through an additional review procedure to determine the potential liability in the activities that the group participates in. This may involve a mandatory meeting with Sport York and Insurance and Liability to determine the necessary precautions that need to take place in order for the organization to be recognized.

3. All clubs and organizations seeking recognition or renewal must submit:
  - i. A fully completed Club Application which includes the following components:
    - a. The names, student numbers, and emails of 15 currently registered York University students in good standing who are members of the group. Executives and 80% of the clubs' members must be currently registered York University students.
    - b. Renewing clubs must provide a copy of the election meeting minutes that ratified the new executive team.
    - c. The organization's contact information.
    - d. The personal contact information for both signing officers.
    - e. Information on any Departmental/College/Faculty affiliations, including any non-York staff members the organization has.
    - f. An agreement by the signing officers to abide by the "Statement on Rights and Responsibilities". The group must also consent to indemnify and hold the University harmless for any damages and legal costs resulting from its activities.
  - ii. The group's written constitution including any incorporation papers.

Organizations are expected to report any changes of signing officers, non-York staff members, phone number, email and mailing address within 5 business days. Where application information is inadequate, the organization will be asked to provide more details.
4. SCLD will review completed documentation and contact the sig

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## Goals

So we can better support you, please list 3 goals your organization has for this upcoming year

### Goal 1

(required)

### Goal 2

(required)

### Goal 3

(required)

What skills/training do you think you or your organization could use to help you achieve these goals? Are there any workshops you would be interested in attending that SCLD can provide for you?

(required)

**Forms**

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### Signing Officers

#### 1. Primary Signing Officer

(required)

#### Position

(required)

#### York Student ID

(required)

#### Personal Email

(required)

#### Telephone # (Most Commonly Used)

(required)

[Leonard Park](#)

[My In-Charge](#)

[My Shortcuts](#)

[Messages](#)

[Help](#)

[Log Out](#)

#### Personal Mailing Address (Not Organization's Office Address)

(required)

#### 2. Secondary Signing Officer

(required)

#### Position

(required)

#### York Student ID

(required)

**Personal Email**

*(required)*

**Telephone #**

*(required)*

**Personal Mailing Address (Not Organization's Office Address)**

*(required)*

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### Documentation

**Election Meeting Minutes** (Sample can be found under *Documents* on [SCLD YU Connect Page](#))

*(required)*

Upload File

**Constitution** (Most Up-to-Date)

*(required)*

Upload File



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## 2012 Student Organization Application

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Page Properties

### Membership

#### Total Number of Members

(required)

#### Membership List (A minimum of 15 currently registered York students are required)

##### 1. Name

(required)

##### York Student ID

(required)

##### Email (required)

##### 2. Name

(required)

##### York Student ID

(required)

##### Email (required)

##### 3. Name

(required)

##### York Student ID

(required)

**Email (required)**

**4. Name**

*(required)*

**York Student ID**

*(required)*

**Email (required)**

**5. Name**

*(required)*

**York Student ID**

*(required)*

**Email (required)**

**6. Name**

*(required)*

**York Student ID**

*(required)*

**Email (required)**

**7. Name**

*(required)*

**York Student ID**

*(required)*

**Email (required)**

**8. Name**

*(required)*

**York Student ID**

*(required)*

**Email** *(required)*

**9. Name**

*(required)*

**York Student ID**

*(required)*

**Email** *(required)*

**10. Name**

*(required)*

**York Student ID**

*(required)*

**Email** *(required)*

**11. Name**

*(required)*

**York Student ID**

*(required)*

**Email** *(required)*

**12. Name**

*(required)*

**York Student ID**

*(required)*

Email (required)

13. Name

York Student ID

(required)

Email (required)

14. Name

(required)

York Student ID

(required)

Email (required)

15. Name

(required)

York Student ID

(required)

Email (required)

### Forms

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### Statement of Rights & Responsibilities

As a signing officer for my student organization, I understand that in my position I have been granted additional administrative privileges on the YUConnect system and that those privileges are associated with a higher level of responsibility.

I will manage the content of my student organization page to ensure that it is appropriate and does not contravene York University regulations, policies and procedures. Furthermore, I will not create any false record in the YUConnect system.

I will access and use the personal information of student organization members only within the scope of my position's normal responsibilities and for the purposes of operating my student organization, and not for any other purpose.

I will not provide additional administrative access to the YUConnect system to any individual not currently serving as an executive or advisor of my student organization.

I will immediately advise Student Community & Leadership Development if I am aware of any security breach of the information contained on YUConnect.

I understand that a breach of applicable regulations of York University may result in the withdrawal of official recognition and associated privileges. I understand that approval of this request for recognition does not enable our organization to use the name of York University or one of its sub-units in association with our activities. I also understand and accept that our organization has no right to speak on behalf of York University, nor should it give the appearance of doing so. I acknowledge that York University accepts no liability arising out of its recognition of our organization and the activities of said group. I agree that our organization shall indemnify and hold York University and its officers/employees harmless for any damages and legal costs resulting from our activities.

*(required)*

I agree to this statement as the primary signing officer for the above stated student organization

I agree to notify SCLD of any change in information for our organization including changes in contact information and/or signing officers within 5 business days

**Primary Signing Officer**

*(required)*

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

*(required)*

\_\_\_\_\_