



Friday, February 26, 2021

Gatherings

Guidelines for those on an [LOA](#) Regarding Elections and Voting Guidance for Virtual Events and Admitted Students

Dear Student Organization Leaders,

As we have been meeting with a number of students, your well-being and the importance of building community has been on our minds. I had the great fortune of meeting with our Frosh Council recently to learn ways in which student organizations are effectively building community. Some of their favorites included using [alternative platforms to Zoom](#), [playing games](#) like [Among Us](#), and hosting smaller breakout rooms to foster more personal connections. Please continue to share with us how you remain engaged with students virtually, whether it be with undergraduate or graduate students.

Below are some updates that include information about:

- in person outdoor gatherings on campus
- providing guidance for elections and those on [Leave of Absence \(LOA\)](#)
- guidance for virtual events and admitted students

Gatherings

As Santa Clara county moves to tiers with less restrictions, we are permitting outdoor gatherings for those who reside on campus. You can find more information [here](#). It will be updated as things continue to change.

At this time we are still not permitting student organizations to hold in-person events and this information is solely for those formed in households on campus.

As we prepare to allow more of our students to [reside on campus](#), we will make adjustments as state and local guidelines allow. This is an evolving process and we appreciate your patience and feedback.

Guidelines for those on an [LOA](#) Regarding Elections and Voting

In general, whenever you are looking for guidance on voting and elections we recommend you consult your organization's constitution. If you need a copy of your constitution, please reach out to us at studentengagement@stanford.edu.

Prior to holding your elections, you should communicate to your organization who is eligible to vote and run for office. More election guidance can be found [here](#).

Based on the current [LOA policy](#) and our values prioritizing well-being and integrity in our work with your organizations, we recommend the following guidelines:

- LOA students are not considered “active” students and would be ineligible to vote in student organization elections.
- Students who are currently on LOA are not eligible to run for a leadership position if the position formally begins in a quarter for which they are taking an LOA.
- Students may run for a leadership position while on LOA if they plan to enroll as a registered student or flex term for the quarter in which the position begins. If they change their mind later, they must step down, and another student can be appointed or elected per your constitution.
- Students who are currently enrolled or on *flex term* may run for a position in any student organization and may vote per the specific student organization constitution rules.

We understand it may be hard to interpret and implement our guidelines as it applies to those students taking a Leave of Absence (LOA). Our intent is to provide students who chose the LOA option to pause their normal university responsibilities, including those of leading a student organization.

If your student organization does not have enough members and/or leaders to run your organization, please consider having your organization go [dormant](#) until you have enough leadership and members to reactivate your organization.

We have made it easy to “pause” and reactivate your organization during these unprecedented times, to allow everyone flexibility to step away as well as re-enter our university community. We have several organizations who have found this path to be beneficial.

Guidance for Virtual Events and Admitted Students

We know you are eager to welcome newly admitted students as well as those who deferred admission and have taken a gap year. Below are guidelines we ask you to follow regarding virtual events and admitted students:

- Events hosted by your student organization which are not open to the general public are for current Stanford students, and therefore **should not** include admitted students.
- Admitted students are informed about these guidelines and you may direct them [here](#) if they have questions.
- Admitted students are permitted to attend events that are open to the general public for which anyone outside the Stanford community may attend.

Why do these guidelines exist?

Students not yet matriculated have not had the opportunity to receive training or acclimate to the norms of Stanford culture and campus life. Prior to enrollment, admission may be rescinded for violation of community norms. We would hate for this to happen to anyone prior to learning what we

expect of each other in our community. Help us help our new admits by welcoming them through approved Admit Weekend programming and once they are enrolled after New Student Orientation.

If you have questions about this guidance email our team at studentengagement@stanford.edu.

As we continue in our virtual world and navigate through these continued unprecedented times, my team and I are committed to using this opportunity to reset, reflect and rebuild a student organization experience that is the very best it can be.

Feel free to reach out to our student interns virtually on [this calendar](#). We welcome you to share your successes and challenges about your student organization with any of our OSE staff.

Thank you for all you do. Better days ahead.

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