

L. Special Event/Late Night Event Policy

1. Introduction

Georgia State University endeavors to provide for the safety of students and guests attending campus events. These guidelines apply to late night and special events and are intended to complement the university's regular reservation policies and procedures. For purposes of this policy, "late night events" shall mean events expected to end at 11p.m. or later and "special events" shall mean events that 300 or more guests are reasonably expected to attend or that pose a security concern for some other reason, as determined in the sole discretion of the university.

2. Sponsoring Student Organization

Chartered student organizations at Georgia State may not co-sponsor the event with an off-campus organization or with any commercial enterprise. In order to sponsor campus events, student organizations must be in good standing with the University. Student organizations that are on probation or that have any outstanding financial obligations to the university may not sponsor special events/late night events.

3. Special Event/Late Night Event Approval Process

- a. The special event/late night event approval process is administered by the Division of Student Affairs. Request forms are available through the Division of Student Affairs and must be submitted to the Division of Student Affairs a minimum of fifteen (15) business days prior to the event.
- b. All student organizations sponsoring late night or special events must complete the approval procedures outlined in these guidelines. The sponsoring student organization must tentatively reserve the space through the standard reservation procedures for the specific venue. This reservation will remain tentative until all of the required approvals are obtained.
- c. At least ten (10) business days prior to the event, a security meeting must occur to discuss the security plan for the event. The following must be present at the security meeting: student organization representative (president or primary student organizer of the event), student organization's faculty/staff advisor, event venue representative, Georgia State University Police Department representative, and the Division of Student Affairs representative. Each of the above must sign the approval form for the event to be able to occur.

4. Student Organization Agreement

- a. **Admission:** Admission to special events/late night events is limited to 1) currently enrolled Georgia State students presenting a valid Georgia State ID; 2) guests of a currently enrolled Georgia State student. No more than two guests are allowed per student. It is the obligation of the student organization and the faculty/staff advisor to enforce these attendance expectations.
- b. **Admission Charges:** Only student organization representatives will take admission funds and must maintain the security of the funds. University police officers or other university officials will not handle tickets or money. There will be no refunds for any event admission charges.
- c. **Payment for the Event:** Payment for charges for the event will be through the standard billing process for the university department providing the service (police, reservations, physical plant/maintenance, etc.). Student organizations with outstanding debts will not be allowed to hold future events. Should the student organization fail to meet the financial obligations, the student organization representative who has signed the Special Event/Late Night Event form will be financially responsible for these charges. These debts will be viewed as debts to the university and the student will have a hold placed on their account until the debt is cleared.
- d. **Event Time:** Times for events must be approved by the appropriate event venue representative. All Special Events/Late Night events must end by 2 a.m. All patrons must exit the building no later than 2:30 a.m. The sponsoring student organization must exit the building no later than 3 a.m.
- e. **Responsibility of Student Organization:** The officers of the sponsoring student organization shall be responsible for maintaining order at the event. This includes meeting with the faculty/staff advisor and police prior to the event, administering the ticket process, checking student IDs of students and guests, ensuring compliance with maximum-event capacity, ending the event, ensuring compliance with all facility rules and expectations, etc.
- f. **Maximum Attendance and Loitering:** The maximum attendance for each event is determined by the capacity of the scheduled room. After the room capacity has been met, no one will be admitted to the event even if other patrons have left the event. No loitering is permitted in the lobby, outside the building, or in parking areas. It is the responsibility of the student organization to inform patrons of this policy during the event and utilize police officers to enforce these policies. An accurate account of all entering patrons must be recorded.

- g. **Advertising for the Event:** No advertising may be distributed for the event until the approval form has been completed and final confirmation and approval have been received by the student organization. All advertisement should include the statement “This event is not a public event. Attendance is limited to Georgia State students and their invited guests” in noticeable prominence. Advertisements must be in compliance with the Campus Posting Policy. Failure to comply with this regulation could result in the cancellation of the event.
- h. **Cancellation and Inclement Weather:** Cancellation policies are venue specific. Cancellations must be in writing and signed by the person that made the original reservation or by the student organization’s faculty/staff advisor. The cancellation must be made to the service provider, event venue representative, and the Georgia State University Police Department. Failure to cancel the event may result in the student organization incurring minimum charges for the event. If the event is canceled by the sponsoring student organization, the space arrangements may not be assumed by another student organization. If the event is canceled and another student organization has time to complete the Special Event/Late Night Event approval process, the new student organization must initiate the approval process as a new event. In the event that the university is closed due to inclement weather, the event will be canceled and no charges will be incurred for security support. Should inclement weather be a possibility, student organizations are encouraged to listen to the local media for official announcements. It is highly encouraged to secure an inclement weather location or alternate date when planning your event.
- i. **Outdoor Venues:** Special considerations must be made for any event that occurs outdoors. Such considerations include lighting, egress, and admission controls. Based on the needs of the event, additional security or measures may be required.
- j. **Alcohol:** The student organization must adhere to the Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and Administrative Policies.
- k. **Violations of State Law and University Policy at Event:** If violations of state law or university policy occur at the event, including but not limited to, the presence of alcoholic beverages, smoking or disruptive behavior, the event could be canceled immediately by the advisor, police, student organization officials or university officials. This judgment call can be made at any time during the event in question by the aforementioned entities; however, the university police have the final decision regarding the safety of the patrons and the security of university property and may cancel the event immediately.

5. Student Organization Faculty/Staff Advisor Responsibility

For all Special Events/Late Night Events, the student organization’s University faculty/staff advisor (or approved designee) must attend a security meeting with respective university officials and must be present during the entire event. The faculty/staff advisor’s responsibilities include conferring with the student organization leaders and the university police regarding security expectations; assisting with attendance requirements; and assisting in handling any problems related to the event (that is, violations of university regulations regarding alcohol, overcrowding, unruly behavior, ending the event, etc.). An event evaluation form shall be signed during the event and returned to the Division of Student Affairs one business day after the event.

6. Security

- a. Georgia State University Police officers must be present for all late night and special events. A minimum of two officers will be required for all events for a minimum of a four-hour time period and the student organization will be billed accordingly. Only officially assigned Georgia State University police officers may be utilized for these events. The final determination of the number of police officers necessary for a specific event will be made by the Georgia State University Police.
- b. The police officers on duty will enforce state law and university regulations. One officer will be posted at the entrance to the event to supervise admissions procedures and to provide security for any cash receipts. The other officer will patrol the event both inside the room and outside the hall. If problems occur, officers will respond and request additional support from the Georgia State University police as necessary. The student organization may be billed if additional officers are needed at the event.
- c. The sponsoring student organization will be responsible for all costs related to security for the event. The sponsoring student organization will develop a security plan with a representative of the Georgia State university Police, in conjunction with the event venue representative and in advance of the event. The police will make decisions on the number of police officers required, the number of hours necessary and the estimated cost. Prior to the beginning of the event, the student leaders of the student organization and the faculty/staff advisor will meet with the police officers assigned to the event for introductions, to clarify roles and to discuss any policy concerns regarding the event.

- d. Should circumstances related to the event (excessive loitering after the event, lengthy cleaning time, etc.) require the officers to work overtime, there will be additional charges billed to the sponsoring student organization. The police officers will secure the building following the event and will not leave until the building and the area are cleared of people and the area is secure. If any damages are discovered at the end of the event, the police will submit a report to the appropriate facility representative and the student organization will be billed accordingly.

7. Damage and Excessive Clean-Up Requirements

- a. Prior to the event, the sponsoring student organization, together with the university police, will inspect the facility to ensure that there is no damage caused to the facility. If there is any damage, it will be noted by the sponsoring student organization and verified by the university police. A report will be submitted to the appropriate venue documenting damages after the event has concluded. The student organization is responsible for any damage that occurs during the event, in the event room, adjacent facilities (e.g. restrooms), and entry areas, regardless of who is at fault.
- b. The sponsoring student organization should clean up all debris and/or decorations from the facility. Should the student organization fail to clean the facility, the student organization will incur additional costs related to having the excessive cleaning complete. The sponsoring student organization is financially responsible for all damage or excessive clean-up costs and will be billed accordingly following the event.

8. Limited Reservations

- a. Student organizations may sponsor multiple special events/late night events during a semester, provided they follow the special event/late night event approval process.
- b. Student organizations may be denied approval for future special events/late night events if there are significant problems associated with a previous special event/late night event sponsored by the student organization. Significant problems may include but are not limited to, physical altercations, excessive damage to the facility, presence of alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, non-compliance with special event/late night event policy, or any violation of university policies or state law.

9. Variances

Written requests for variances may be made in advance to the Division of Student Affairs. These requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Adopted January 1997 Student Life Committee
Amended April 7, 2005 Student Life Committee
Amended November 16, 2006 Student Life Committee
Amended January 21, 2010 Student Life Committee
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