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Hello,

I am writing to appeal the decision regarding late submission of Club Form Packets. I am representing Society of Women Engineers (SWE), one of the many clubs who was denied a club status due to the packets being turned in late. While there are numerous clubs who may not have turned in the Club Form Packets on time, other clubs who were interested in appealing this decision are American Indian Science & Engineering Society, League of Legends, Cybersecurity Club, and Tri-beta Club.

It is my understanding that the Constitution does not have a procedure to follow when a Club Form Packet is turned in late, which results in:

- No formal procedure to solidify the submission process. As a new club president, I was made aware of the deadlines through the meeting the SGA held at the beginning of the semester. Although deadlines are on the club packets, they are not detailed on the SGA calendar.
- No formal penalties the club should face. Currently, the Vice President of the SGA is following suit of the former VP and denying acceptance of the Club Forms, but this is not constitutionally mandated.
- Inconsistency, as some clubs are allowed exceptions to the late penalty.
- Clubs with new Presidents are subjected to being dismantled for miscommunication regarding filling out the club packet.
- The SGA not following constitutional procedures, creating a bad precedent for future SGA members.

I am not advocating that the SGA accept the Club Form Packets without penalizing the clubs. I understand there has to be some motive to get these forms turned in in a timely manner. Still, the lack of SGA's constitutional procedure should not result in the dismantlement of a club. Denial of club status is debilitating and ultimately harms the student body because:

- Funding is not available for educational conferences.
- Event grants are no longer an option resulting in less student participation and stunted growth of the organization.
- Clubs are unable to rent NMTs professional spaces, such as the Fidel conference rooms, for speakers.

I believe that all of the clubs who have been impacted this semester would benefit from having the denial of club status appealed. I personally would be willing to work with the SGA to sketch out how the constitution should be revised and come up with possible solutions. Afterall, the SGA is here to support the student body, and I feel that it is failing in the aspect when it comes to the denial of late club applications.

I propose that the SGA implements a grace period, possibly one to two weeks following the due date, where a club can turn their packet in with a small penalty. An obvious penalty might be the addition of mandatory volunteer hours. While the penalty can be up for discussion, I think the underlying problem is that dismantlement is not appropriate or constitutionally valid.

Society of Women in Engineering helps bring a sense of gender diversity to a campus with a male-to-female ratio of 7:3. It is a club that anyone is free to join to help in empowering and motivating women. New Mexico Tech is 5th in the nation for women graduating in engineering, a statistic we should continue to foster and advance. I believe that SWE helps to achieve that goal by the support it provides on and off campus through outreach events. We work with the local girl scout group to encourage interest in the STEM field at a young age, and this semester we are planning on hosting a speaker on the topic of diversity. This talk is going to be open to the public, and we hope it can be our way of giving back to Tech. We hope it is as evident to the SGA how vital SWE is to New Mexico Tech.

This year was the first year for a Cybersecurity Club at NMT. The club was proposed in response to NMT receiving funding for the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence and the Cybersecurity Education Center. Both of these centers provide opportunities for students for outreach, education/training, and employment in cybersecurity. The club was proposed by the Interim Director of the two centers to engage more students with these opportunities with the expectation of getting 20-30 students involved; 74 students signed up. Students have been participating in peer-led training and setting up / participating in competitions since the beginning of the semester. This club is critical to enhancing cybersecurity opportunities for students.

While it is important to teach student clubs and their leadership responsibility and the seriousness of deadlines, having no appeal process or late penalty option seems excessive.

I understand that the SGA is following the constitution and filling in the gaps it has to the best of their ability. I don't think the problem lies with the SGA, but with the constitution they are following. I believe that revising it would benefit everyone involved, and I look forwarding to working with the SGA to come up with solutions.

Thank you,

Society of Women Engineers

American Indian Science & Engineering Society

League of Legends

Cybersecurity Club

Tri-beta Club