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SOAR Sustainability

Overview

The House of Representatives (HOR) is a collective body comprising the Student Government Association (SGA), officially, made of the Presidents of all student organizations at Wright State University (WSU). The Speaker and Assistant Speaker, elected on a dual ticket by the Presidents, serve as the advocates for student organization life on campus. The mission of the House Team states, "Our mission is to help you accomplish your mission." (HT)*. The SOAR Program (Student Organization Achievement Recognition) has served as the core focus of HT since Fall 2015 in making this mission possible. SOAR is a tier model program whereby organizations are challenged to collaborate with other student organizations, attend leadership and organizational development workshops, and perform community service. As they progress through tier levels, they receive access to more rewards to better their organization. A complete tier model of SOAR can be found at the bottom of this proposal. SOAR has seen tremendous buy-in from the student organizations on campus, with about 40% of student organizations on campus participating within the three years up to 2018. This year, it is projected that up to 20 organizations will receive Tier 4 or Tier 5, with another 20 to receive Tier 3. Such success by the student organizations has driven the House Team to evaluate the sustainability of SOAR and how it can best serve the student organizations at Wright State University.

*The House Team is a committee that governs, implements, and advises SOAR. It is chaired by the Speaker and is composed of the Assistant Speaker, Secretary of the House, Director of Outreach and Collaboration, the Director of the Freshmen Internship Program, the Assistant of External Affairs, the Associate of Networking, and the House Team Freshmen Intern.

Proposal

The Office of Student Activities (OSA) is a university office that is composed of:

“a team of student-centered professionals committed to providing student organization services, campus programs, fraternity and sorority advisement, student media, multicultural programs and leadership development programs that support students' holistic development.”

The mission of OSA is to:

“promote our values of cultivating community, appreciating and respecting diversity, promoting accessibility, enhancing empowerment, creating collaboration, delivering service, and modeling the leadership principles we teach; the staff provides a framework for purposeful and meaningful experiences that prepare students for life.”

In concurrence with the Office of Student Activities' mission to provide “leadership development programs” and “enhancing empowerment”, along with the infrastructure to support a growing program such as SOAR, the proposal is for OSA to co-manage the SOAR program with HT. This document will detail the proposal and the breakdown of the obligations and responsibilities to be held by OSA and HT.

Desired Outcomes

The desired outcomes of this co-management include the following

- Guarantee of resources to student organizations who achieve their tier in SOAR
- Increased and long term participation in SOAR
- More efficient and effective advocacy of student organization needs and opportunities on campus
- Improved content and development of SOAR workshops and other SOAR events

General Responsibilities

Office of Student Activities

OSA will implement most aspects of the SOAR program. OSA will notify in a timely and consistent manner the dates, times, and locations of all SOAR events to the student organizations using orgsync. OSA will assist HT in communication to student organizations. OSA will have weekly meetings with the Speaker and Assistant Speaker so that both parties can discuss SOAR implementation and student organization needs.

These meetings will be crucial in ensuring proper implementation and management of SOAR by OSA and HT.

House Team

HT will meet on a rolling basis with all student organizations over the course of the academic year. At these meetings, HT will evaluate the needs and opportunities for the organization and discuss solutions in HT meetings to be held weekly. HT will assist OSA in communication to student organizations. HT will have weekly meetings with OSA staff so that both parties can discuss SOAR implementation and student organization needs. These meetings will be crucial to ensuring proper implementation and management of SOAR by OSA and HT.

Obligations of the Office of Student Activities

Workshops

One month before the start of the Fall and Spring semesters, the Speaker and Assistant Speaker will submit to OSA a report of the desired topics and recommend appropriate facilitators, determined based on feedback from the student organizations, for the four (4) workshops offered that upcoming semester. OSA will then have the responsibility of developing the content and allocating any needed supplies and printing for the workshops. OSA will reach out to campus and/or off-campus individuals to assist in facilitating and/or providing additional content for the workshops. HT will collect feedback about the workshops and evaluate future workshop topics for the student organizations and communicate these to OSA.

Top Tier Bash

One Top Tier Bash will be planned by OSA for the student organizations in Tier 4 and 5. The Top Tier Bash will be a fun time for student organizations to eat food together and play games. HT will reach out to Top Tier organizations in September on when they want their bash. OSA will then have the responsibility to plan the event, preferably to be held before the end of February.

House Party

One House Party will take place within the month of January. House Party will serve as a mid-year student organization fair and a time for organizations to celebrate their success. House Party details are determined by OSA, however HT will provide feedback on what HOR expects to experience at the event, such as food, games and activities, and raffle items.

Student Organization Highlight

OSA will continue their bi-weekly Orgsync emails, including two student organization highlights. These organization highlight selections and information will also be shared with HT so that the organization can also be highlighted on SGA social media platforms.

SOAR in President and Treasurer Trainings

OSA will provide an introduction to SOAR in all President and Treasurer Trainings. The information covered will be in collaboration with HT. Please see under “Obligations of the House Team” for additional information.

Priority Table Placement

All student organizations who achieve Tier 3 or higher will receive priority table placement at DO the U, Fall Fest, House Party, and April Craze. For Fall Fest and April Craze, organizations eligible for priority tabling will be identified five weeks prior to the event and the University Activities Board will be notified within that time.

SOAR Award Purchases

OSA will purchase Tier 5 award plaques to be awarded at the Student Leader Award Ceremony held every April. HT will notify OSA three weeks prior to the Awards Ceremony who the Tier 5 organizations are .

Obligations of the House Team

Special Funding Committee

The Assistant Speaker will continue their duty under the SGA bylaws of evaluating and administering requests for SFC money to student organizations.

Campus-Wide Endorsements

In keeping with Top Tier promises, the HT will ensure that the top tier organizations will be featured in the SGA Raider Report once throughout the course of the academic year. HT will gather the information from the organizations’ eboards and the Assistant Director of External Affairs will bring the information to the External Affairs committee for inclusion in the Raider Report. This endorsement is independent of OSA student organization highlights and should not discourage their regular operations.

Basketball Games

Tier 5 organizations get a “sponsorship” at one basketball game. HT will contact the Tier 5 organizations as to the date the organization can attend a basketball game, their mission statement and logo, and any other information they would like shared at the basketball game. Then OSA will also communicate this information to the Nutter Center events director, Sam Armstrong. The goal is that the basketball games will be taken more seriously by the request coming from OSA. If possible, the Speaker and the organization will go onto the court at halftime and share a little bit about SOAR and their organization. The goal of the basketball games is to promote the organization with a special opportunity to get a shout-out at the game and have a good experience with WSU Athletics.

Tunnel Painting

The HT will continue the responsibilities of planning tunnel painting for the student organizations and award tunnel squares based on the tier designation of the organizations.

SOAR Endorsements

SOAR Endorsements will continue by the HT for Tier 3 and above organizations. SOAR endorsement promotes organization events. Events that meet HT criteria will be broadcasted on SGA social media as well as communicated by OSA. Endorsements will remain directly over HT oversight as opposed to OSA because a SOAR endorsement also promotes SGA’s presence by requesting all organization endorsed members follow SGA social media platforms.

Free Printing Requests

The Speaker or Assistant Speaker will continue the approval of printing requests to HT by HOR

Collective House Meetings

One Collective House Meeting will be held in September and the second one in January. The Collective House Meetings will be lead by the Speaker and inform HOR about all upcoming events and initiatives of the semester. It will be the opportunity for HT and OSA to communicate together what the strategy will be for each semester and answer any organization questions have about SOAR, concerns about student life, or opportunities for their organization that we can help them capitalize on. The Tier 2 and above t shirt raffle will be conducted at the September Collective House Meeting.

Virtual Bulletin Board

Organizations will continue to be able to submit advertisements to be aired on SGA's virtual bulletin overlooking the North Lawn.

President and Treasurer Trainings

HT will be present at all OSA President and Treasurer trainings to help facilitate the sessions as well as to introduce the organization leaders to SOAR. OSA will have ownership of the workshops and operate them as similarly as the past, but with increased collaboration with HT and SOAR education.

Student Organization Outreach and Advocacy

The primary obligation of HT is to reach out to HOR and listen to their concerns and opportunities and assist them in any way HT and SGA can. Every week, every HT member will go to another student organization's meeting to get to know the organization, share with them about SOAR, and what HT and SGA can do for them to address any concerns or opportunities the organization is encountering. HT will actively and consistently be pursuing its mission of helping other student organizations achieve their mission. HT will also serve as SOAR Program educators, meeting one-on-one with organization leaders who want to learn more about SOAR and their organization's progress toward their desired tier.

SOAR Tracker Evaluations

SOAR Tracker management and evaluations will be oversought by HT. HT works closely with the student organizations and knows each organizations unique circumstances and will be better able to evaluate and determine Tier designation for the organizations who participate in SOAR. OSA will provide HT with all the relevant information to cross-check the Tracker information, such as workshop attendance. The SOAR tracker will be open from the start of the academic year and will close at 11:59pm on the third Wednesday of March. This closing must occur then in order to review the top tier orgs so that the plaques and banner can be ordered on time for the OSA Student Leader Awards Ceremony in April. Organizations will be permitted to fill out and save information they enter into the SOAR tracker as they go through the semester. Both OSA and HT will have full access to the tracker form on orgsync.

SOAR Award Purchases

The top tier banner will be ordered immediately after Tier 4 and 5 organizations have been identified and presented at the Awards Assembly in April. All organization members

will be invited to sign the banner when they stop by the SGA office and subsequently thereafter, the banner will be hung in the Atrium by HT during Spring finals week. All previously budgeted items for 2017-2018 will remain necessary for 2018-2019 SOAR financing.

Budget

Please see the attached budget on the back of the proposal

Conclusion

In conclusion, a co-management of SOAR between HT and OSA is imperative to the long-term sustainability of SOAR and its ability to empower student organizations. HT, for the past three years, has been very successful in encouraging student organization buy-in for the program and student organizations are beginning to participate more. However, in the management and implementation of several of the aspects of SOAR, HT has, in turn, lost its focus and true obligation under the Student Government Association Constitution: to be the official advocate voice for student organizations. This sustainability plan entrusts the implementation aspects of SOAR to OSA whose mission is to provide “leadership development programs” and other components in line with the mission of OSA. This collaboration with OSA will then empower HT to have the available resources to instead of, for example, plan a workshop, meet with several dozens of student organizations instead. HT will be able to better address, for example, the high costs associated with on campus catering contracts with Hospitality Services. This is a very big, student organization issue that, unfortunately, has been put by the wayside in order for HT to focus on implementing SOAR. This sustainability proposal ensures that organizations will receive the long term benefits and development of SOAR as well as better representation of HOR issues by HT to the university.