

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

POLICY ON RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

The following policy consists of quoted opinions from the State Attorney General's office regarding religious activities on a college campus. The Attorney General's office has reviewed this policy. These, along with the COG document, the Social Contract, and the policy on Outside Speakers, Performers, and Other Events, provide the basic framework which govern the use of College facilities and funds for religious activities.

A. Use of Facilities

1. " A religious organization that is not directly affiliated with Evergreen can rent facilities at the going rate to conduct religious services but are limited to a one-time short-term use of space."¹
2. "When the insitution decides to make its facilities available to an outside group, the general rule of law is applicable in this respect that while the state is under no duty to make its public facilities available for private purposes, if it elects to do so, it must make them available on a nondiscriminatory basis."²
3. "However, it should be remembered an institution of higher education cannot lease a portion of its public facilities to a local religious denomination for the conduct of religious exercises, since a lease connotes permanence and, therefore, the institution could be considered as sanctioning the religious worship, exercise, or instruction."³
4. A recognized student group may conduct various types of activities within the room or facility that the institution allows to be used so long as that activity, as interpreted by the institution, does not constitute religious worship, exercise or instruction.⁴

B. Instruction

1. "State law prohibits religious instruction within public institutions. The definition of 'Religious instruction' will require additional test cases before it will be clearly defined. At this point we do know that the Bible taught as literature is an acceptable practice".⁵
2. In order to establish a clear understanding, "religious instruction" is here conceived as a conscious attempt to convert a person's religious beliefs as opposed to providing information about religious beliefs.

C. Administration

1. "Thus, there must be an attempt to balance the 1st Amendment guarantee of free exercise of religion, speech, and expression as well as the guarantee in the 14th Amendment of equal protection and non-discriminatory treatment.

In order to balance these rights, and in light of Article I, S 11 (Amendment 34) of the state constitution, recognized student groups should be entitled to use facilities of the institution on an equal basis with all other recognized student groups, even though the student group may be religiously oriented or have religious ties".⁶
2. Administration of this policy should be guided by the COG document, and Social Contract, the policy on Outside Speakers, Performers, and other Events, the policy on On-campus Employer Interviews and Recruitment, and State and Federal laws.
3. The Dean of Developmental Services is charged with administrative responsibility. He may delegate this assignment to the Director of Recreation and Campus Activities and he is expected to

exercise his administrative charge in consultation with the College Religious Activity Coordinator.

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- 1 Memo: Larry Stenberg to DTF on Religious Activities, Subject: Some Legal Questions, dated April 21, 1972
 - 2 Memo: Rich Montecucco to Doug Cook, Subject: College Facilities -- Use by religiously orientated groups, dated April 22, 1971
 - 3 Ibid.
 - 4 Ibid.
 - 5 Larry Stenberg to DTF on Religious Activities
 - 6 Rich Montecucco to Doug Cook