FAQ’s
Risk Management for Registered Student Groups at the University of Houston

HB2639/SB1138 is a statute that was enacted by the 80th Texas Legislature so that registered student organizations at public colleges and universities in Texas receive risk management education and guidance for their members and advisors.

In accordance with the legislation, the Center for Student Involvement will work with student organizations that have been designated by the university to complete training on risk management annually. In addition to the groups that are required to complete the annual training, any registered student organization is welcome to attend the trainings.

Please find below a list of Frequently Asked Questions about this new law and the risk management program offered through the Center for Student Involvement. The Center for Student Involvement is located in 51 University Center Underground, 713./743.5180. More information can be found at http://www.uh.edu/csi/riskmanagement.html.

1. **What student organizations at the University of Houston have to comply with HB 2639/SB1138?**
   
   Currently, all SFAC fee funded student organization, social fraternities & sororities and Rec Sports clubs are required to participate in the risk management and guidance sessions.

2. **Why does our organization have to comply with HB 2639/SB1138?**
   
   The University of Houston is required to comply with this new statute. However, the law allows each institution to determine the types of student organizations that could benefit from management guidance. All registered student organizations are able to attend the training.

3. **What will we learn in the risk management program?**
   
   The law requires, at a minimum, that the program address possession and use of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs, including penalties that may be imposed for possession or use; hazing; sexual abuse and harassment; fire and other safety issues, including the possession and use of a firearm or other weapon or of an explosive devise; travel to a destination outside the area in which the institution is located; behavior at parties and other events held by a student organization; and adoption by a student organization of a risk management program. The law also permits the University of Houston to add to the risk management program any topics the institution determines is relevant.
4. **Why do authorized representatives and advisor(s) have to attend the risk management program?**
   
The law makes attendance at this risk management training program mandatory for certain individuals. Those individuals mentioned specifically are advisors and students holding the offices of president, membership chair, risk management chair, social chair, and pledge class or new member chair as potentially being required to attend. Because not every organization that registers at the University of Houston uses these titles, we must rely on your organization’s authorized representative to fulfill the obligations of the law.

5. **When will this mandatory risk management education program be offered?**
   
   All groups will receive risk management training during the fall semester.
   
The Center for Student Involvement will contact organizations and advisors regarding date/time of the risk management training.

6. **What if our organization does not have an advisor?** (Is this really necessary?)
   
   Currently, only fee funded organizations are required to have an advisor, and they are required to go through the training. Fraternities and sororities have alumni advisors, and one from each organization is required to go through the training. The Department of Campus Recreation will provide a staff advisor to support the risk management training.

7. **Once our organization members and advisor(s) complete this risk management program, will we need to complete the program again even if we have the same officers the following year?**
   
   Beginning Fall Semester 2008 a minimum of two (2) authorized student representatives of the identified organizations will be required to complete the risk management program every year. Any advisor who has not previously completed the UH risk management program is required to complete the program at least once. However, advisors are encouraged to complete the training on an annual basis.

8. **What if our organization already has our own risk management program?**
   
   Regardless of the internal education programming that your organization or your national body may have in place, your organization and advisor will still be required to complete the annual risk management program administered by the Center for Student Involvement at the University of Houston.
9. As an organization advisor, why am I required to attend the risk management program?
   The new law requires each advisor who has not previously completed the UH risk management program to do so. Advisors who have previously taken the training are encouraged to complete the risk management program annually.

10. Once our authorized representatives and advisors complete the risk management program, are we in compliance?
    To meet the minimum obligations under this new law, selected student organizations must:
    i. **Attend UH Training Program**: A minimum of (2) authorized representatives and their student organization advisor must physically attend the entire UH risk management program and must actively participate in assigned individual or group activities during the program.
    
    ii. **Report Back to Your Organization**: Take the information from the Risk Management Training back to your student organization. Communicate where to find information and resources.
    
    iii. **Create a Risk Management Plan**: work with your organization to create a risk management plan for events. Keep the plan in your organization’s paperwork.
    
    iv. **NOTE**: Student organizations may have many other obligations they must meet under state or federal law, as well as university rules. Completing the above requirements does not necessarily mean that your organization is in full compliance with other laws or university policies that impact your student organization. Please consult with your advisor or staff in the Office of the Center for Student Involvement if you have any questions.

11. How can I find out if my organization is in compliance with HB 2639/SB1138?
    For more information on whether or not your organization is in compliance with the new law, contact the Center for Student Involvement, 51 University Center, 713/743.5180