




**DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
& ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

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December 10, 2010

Jeremy Orbach, President
Students for a Sensible Drug Policy


Re: Recognition as a Student Organization at Northern Illinois University

Dear Jeremy:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me recently regarding your concerns with the student organization recognition process in relation to your organization, Students for a Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP). Following a denial of recognition by the SA (Student Association) Senate on the evening of December 5, 2010, I have been tasked with reviewing your organization's situation and providing an appropriate response from Northern Illinois University.

Based upon my careful review of your application, minutes from the meetings where SSDP business was addressed, information submitted by SSDP, the standards set forth within the SA bylaws for student organization recognition, etc., I have made the determination, under the unique circumstances of this case, to administratively recognize SSDP as a student organization at Northern Illinois University. Your application appears to be in order, and the other documentation that I have reviewed is not sufficiently clear to identify a justifiable reason for the denial of such recognition.

This action is being taken pursuant to the inherent governmental administrative oversight and control that is granted to the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University and its fiscal officers and designated program administrators through State law as it relates to the proper use of University resources (which includes facilities, computing resources, funds, etc.), and is consistent with the Board of Trustees *Regulations* that require accountability within the institutional organization for assuring adherence to the legal standards that accompany such uses of University resources.

SSDP will go into the recognized student organization system as a Social Justice, Advocacy, and Support organization. This recognition is being provided with the understanding that SSDP will be placed into the system and be treated as all other recognized student organizations. That means that it shall receive all of the benefits that are associated with recognition, but also that SSDP must continue to abide by the requirements of recognition of the Student Association and Northern Illinois University in order to maintain such status.

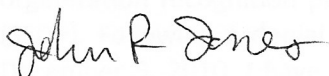
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In addition to this action, the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management is establishing a task force comprised of University officials and Student Association members to review and revise the recognition and funding processes as they relate to student organizations. This task force will be charged with completing their work by the conclusion of the spring 2011 semester, so that the Student Association will be able to start the 2011-2012 academic year with a satisfactory system for both the University and Student Association in our shared governance system.

Lastly, the SA is collaborating with the University to develop a more formal training module for use by the Student Association on the applicable legal standards that have been established by the court systems regarding student recognition processes in public university settings.

It is my hope that this resolves the issues that have been presented by your organization, and that the measures outlined here result in suitable processes to supplement and further the educational mission of the University and the experiences students will have at Northern Illinois University.

Sincerely,



John R. Jones III, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President

cc: Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
Angie Dreessen, Director, Student Involvement & Leadership Development
Greg Brady, University Legal Services
Student Association
FIRE