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FILE

RELIGION CENTER POLICY BOARD

University of Houston

October 1965

In Two Sections:

- A. Preamble, pp. 1-3
- B. Constitution, pp. 4-6

RELIGION CENTER POLICY BOARD
University of Houston

A. Preamble

- I. This Policy Board shall operate within the framework of University policies and procedures. Its basic guidelines shall be those establishing the Religion Center as found in a resolution of the Board of Regents, passed 25 Feb. 1961. The following section of this resolution has a direct bearing on what policies for the use of the Religion Center are established by the Policy Board.
 - "1. That the Religious Center be and remain always set aside for the use of the religious work of the officially recognized denominations and their religious advisors on the campus of the University of Houston, so long as they have a work on said campus as herein set forth, together with such use as the University may make of such facilities for student and faculty groups for other educational purposes of the University.
 2. That the spaces so assigned to the respective denominations shall be permanently retained by them for their use so long as they have a work on this campus in accordance with the regulations stipulated in the Constitution of the Religious Groups Council.
 3. That the auditorium and other facilities of the Religious Center be set aside for denominational services, lectures, or meetings, and for the use for such other student and faculty purposes as the University Administration may deem appropriate, on an equitable scheduling procedure, to be administered by the office of the Director of Religious Activities of the University and/or by such other University Administrative officer or officers as may be from time to time designated by the University Administration."
- II. At the request of the Regents, the Attorney General of Texas in Opinion WW-1269, dated 5 May 62, expressed the opinion that the placement of the Religion Center on a state university campus was legitimate. The following excerpt of this Opinion is particularly pertinent to the policies determining the use of the Religion Center.

"III. That the auditorium and other facilities of the Religion Center be set aside for denominational services, lectures, or meetings, and for the use of such other student and faculty purposes as the University Administration may deem appropriate, on an equitable scheduling procedure, to be administered by the office of the Director of Religious Activities of the University and/or such other University administrative officer or officers as may be from time to time designated by the University administration.

V. That where reference is made in this resolution to stipulated procedure and/or regulations of the constitution of the Religious Groups Council, it is understood that the said constitution, future amendments thereto, if any, and stipulated procedures, and/or regulation thereunder, both present and future shall be first subject, from time to time, to prior approval by the University administration."

III. Presently operative policy on the use of the Religion Center includes these basic elements:

1. Those religious groups (known as "charter religious groups") which have contributed a minimum of \$10,000 to the cost of construction of the Religion Center shall have the right of permanent occupancy of their presently assigned suites, are:

1. Baptist Student Union	111
2. B'nai B'rith Hillel	106-108
3. Catholic	203
4. Christian Science	105
5. Church of Christ	101-103
6. Disciples of Christ	206
7. Lutheran (Mo. Syd.)	112-114
8. Lutheran (Nat'l)	110-112
9. Methodist	107-109
10. Presbyterian	208
11. Protestant Episcopal	205

2. The direction, management, and control of activities in these suites is vested in those persons officially representing the faith and/or denominational entity occupying the charter religious groups suites.

3. A) The priorities by which general purpose areas shall be scheduled are as follows:

- a. Charter Religious Groups
- b. Other Religious Groups
- c. Other University Activities
- d. The Office of the Coordinator of Religious and Leadership Activities

B) The General Purpose Areas are:

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| a. The Auditorium Chapel | 122 |
| b. The Chapel | 201 |
| c. The Classroom | 202 |
| d. The Seminar Room | 204 |
| e. The Meeting Room and Lounge | Second floor |
| f. Recognized Religious Group's Office | 104 |
| g. The Visiting Theologian's Office | 102 |

4. Arrangements with the Roman Catholic Church:

a. One of the two chapels (Room 122 or 201) shall be reserved for a total time of four hours for the celebration of Mass by the Catholic Church on the following Holy Days of obligation:

1. Assumption of Our Lady (15 August)
2. All Saints' Day (1 November)
3. Immaculate Conception (8 December)
4. Christmas Day (25 December)
5. Octave of Christmas Day (1 January)
6. Ascension Thursday (40 days after Easter Day)

b. One of the two chapels (Room 122 or 201) shall be reserved at 12:00 Noon on week-days during the time classes are in session for use by the Catholics, and on Sundays at suitable hours.

c. The closet at the southeast corner of the Chapel (Room 201B) is designated for the reservation of the Sacrament.

5. It is understood that the Chapel (Room 201) shall be used primarily for meditation, prayer, and religious services of the Religious Groups.

B. Constitution

Article I Name

The name of this Board shall be the Religion Center Policy Board (Henceforth, "Board").

Article II Purpose

1. The purpose of this Board shall be to establish policies for the use of the General Purpose Areas. Such policies shall be administered through the Office of the Coordinator of Religious and Leadership Activities (Henceforth, "Coordinator") under the supervision of the Coordinator.
2. Said policies shall conform with those listed in the Preamble, III, and in observance of the statements by the Board of Regents and the Attorney General, I and II above.
3. All policies are subject to review and approval by appropriate University officials.

Article III Membership

Section 1.

- A. One representative from each charter denomination or faith on campus selected at the discretion of said denomination or faith.
- B. Three representatives of the non-charter but recognized denominations or faiths on campus selected by these entities from their representatives. These members shall be from different denominations or faiths.
- C. Student representation - three students
 - 1) Two students who shall be chosen by the Student Interfaith Council.
 - 2) One student shall be chosen by the Student Interfaith Council from a list of three nominations by the Student Association President.
- D. Two members of the faculty to be appointed by the Faculty Senate.
- E. One member of the administration to be appointed by the President.

Section 2.

The Coordinator shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board.

Article IV Officers

Section 1.

The Board shall elect the following:

- A. Chairman
- B. Vice-Chairman
- C. Secretary

Section 2.

Duties of these officers shall be those appropriate to such positions.

Article V Elections

Section 1.

The Annual Operating Year of this Board shall run from 1 May through 30 April.

Section 2.

Officers shall be elected annually at a called meeting in May. They shall take office immediately after the election and serve until their successors are elected the following May.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1.

This Board shall meet at least once a semester in addition to the called election meeting in May.

Section 2.

Special meetings may be called at the request of any five (5) voting members.

Article VII Executive Committee

Section 1.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Board and the Coordinator.

Section 2.

This Committee shall act on behalf of the Board between meetings.

Section 3.

Any action of the Executive Committee shall be reviewed by the Board at its next meeting.

Article VIII Amendments

Section 1.

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Board.

Section 2.

Amendments shall be subject to review by appropriate University officials.

Article IX Ratification and Implementation

Section 1.

Upon approval by the Religious Groups Council, this Constitution shall be submitted to the President of the University of Houston for ratification.

Section 2.

Upon ratification by the Office of the President, this Constitution shall take effect as soon as practical after the formation of the Student Interfaith Council.

Unanimously adopted by the Religious Groups Council Thurs, 21 Oct 65
Approved by:

s/ Mike Smith

The Religious Groups Council, Mr. Mike Smith, President

s/ Philip G. Stephan

The Campus Clergy and Religious Counselors, Philip Stephan

s/ Edwin de F. Bennett

The Coordinator of Religious and Leadership Activities,
Edwin de F. Bennett

s/ William A. Yardley

The Dean of Student Life, Dr. William A. Yardley

s/ Philip G. Hoffman

The President of the University, Dr. Philip G. Hoffman