

April 29, 2024

Dear Young Democratic Socialists of America,

As you know from the informal warning that your representative received from the Office of the Dean of Students-Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) on Sunday evening, April 28th (the “Informal Warning”), the Office of Student Activities and Organizations has provided information to OSRR that your organization is in violation of certain provisions of the Purdue University Code of Student Conduct as described in the [Regulations Governing Student Conduct, Disciplinary Proceedings, and Appeals](#) (the “Conduct Regulations”), which are included in the University Regulations.

As is provided in the University Regulations related to Student Activities and Organizations (available at this [link](#) under “Violation of Rules and Regulations”), members of student organizations are required to abide not only by applicable laws but also by University rules and regulations. A violation of any University rules and regulations by any member of a student organization may subject that organization and/or its members to disciplinary action by the Office of the Dean of Students, acting through SAO.

Your organization is charged with the following violations, with relevant sections of the Conduct Regulations cited:

- **B.2.c. – Obstruction or disruption of University activity, which includes [as defined in A(5)] “using or occupying any . . . buildings or grounds in violation of reasonable rules or regulations of the University”;**
- **B.2.g. – Unauthorized use or occupancy of any University property;**
- **B.2.h. – Violation of any University rule governing . . . the use of University property (including time, place and manner of meetings or demonstrations on University property); and**
- **B.2.k.—Failure to comply with directions of University officials acting in the performance of their duties.**

The basis for the foregoing violations include actions that your organization, or individuals acting on its behalf, took or failed to take in connection with the demonstration your organization co-sponsored with Students for Justice in Palestine at Purdue University (SJP) in the final week of April, 2024, including actions to cause SJP and/or YDSA, and/or agents acting on their behalf, to engage in:

(1) the unauthorized occupancy of South Purdue Memorial Mall for a fixed-base demonstration for which space had not been reserved in accordance with University procedures, even after being instructed by University officials to stick to space on the Agriculture Admin Lawn (south of Mitch Daniels Boulevard) that had been reserved for this purpose;

(2) erection of a structure on University property in violation of University policy IV.B.4, as officially noticed to you in an informal warning from OSRR on Sunday evening, April 28th (the “Informal Warning”);

(3) use of said structure, along with other materials, for unauthorized camping in violation of University policy IV.B.1 and SAO’s earlier express denial of permission to camp; and

(4) failure to disassemble said structure by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 29th (after receiving the Informal Warning and an even earlier notice from PUFD representatives, communicated on Saturday evening, April 27th, that the structure must come down).

Please note that the declaration by SJP and YDSA, as articulated in an email communication to OSRR and SAO received Sunday afternoon, April 28th, that they are no longer co-sponsoring or serving as “the leading organizations” of the above-described demonstration does not absolve your organization or its members of violations of University conduct regulations, nor are such violations avoided by virtue of having been committed in the course of a demonstration involving protected speech. As the Conduct Regulations make clear:

“3. Demonstrations. Any individual or group expressive activity that has the intent or effect of calling attention to the participants’ point of view on an issue is not of itself misconduct. Demonstrations that do not involve conduct beyond the scope of constitutionally protected rights of free speech and assembly are, of course, permissible. *However, conduct that is otherwise improper cannot be justified merely because it occurs in the context of a demonstration. Demonstrations that involve violations of any provision of Subsection B(2) [of the Conduct Regulations under the heading Conduct Subject to Disciplinary Sanctions] will not be permitted. A student will be charged with misconduct for any individual misconduct committed by the student in the course of a demonstration.*” (emphasis added)

Now that you have been informed of the nature of the charges against your organization, you will have an opportunity to refute them. A conference in the form of an investigation conversation will be convened for this purpose. You will be contacted further about the timing and location of this meeting, which will include a presentation of the evidence supporting the charges against your organization, as well as your opportunity to rebut that evidence and/or explain your organization’s actions.

At the conclusion of the investigation conversation, a determination will be made as to whether your organization is more likely than not responsible for the violations described in the above charges. Upon any such finding of responsibility, the Office of the Dean of Students may take action against your organization and/or its members in one or more of the following forms:

1. A verbal or written warning to the officers of the organization about future violations;
2. A limitation of privileges;
3. Probation, which may include a restriction of privileges;

4. Suspension of the student organization for a prescribed period of time (an action that may be appealed through the Campus Appeals Board); and
5. Withdrawal of recognition of the student organization (an action that may be appealed through the Campus Appeals Board).

Failure to adhere to University regulations and departmental guidelines concerning student organizations would result in additional disciplinary action.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at (765) 494-1231 or email me at mbrawner@purdue.edu.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martia Brawner King". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Martia Brawner King
Students Activities & Organizations