

The Interfaith Council is made up of elected or appointed student leaders of faith based organizations on campus. The purpose of the council is to assist students in recognizing their individual and collective influence. The council seeks to foster a cooperative and supportive relationship among student leaders within faith-based organizations in an effort to create a greater sense of unity among the overall student population on campus.

By providing opportunities for leadership development and guidance around activities and issues, the Office of Student Activities assists student organizations to achieve their organizational goals as outlined in their mission statements. In turn, the members of the Interfaith Council keep Student Activities professionals informed of student concerns and activities.

The Interfaith Council meets to discuss current issues and strategize about collective action. In addition, council members inform one another of upcoming events. The council also develops an interfaith calendar which is shared with the university community. When appropriate, the council holds events to bring respective member communities together.

GUIDELINES FOR UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY'S INTERFAITH COUNCIL

- I. The Interfaith Council at the University at Albany will be composed of:
 - a. One student representative from each campus faith group that wishes to be part of the committee.
 - b. A Student Association representative, either from the office of Multicultural Affairs or through an appointment of an Interfaith Council Liaison.
 - c. A staff representative from Student Activities, who will act as chair and facilitator, in conjunction with student representatives and SA representatives.
 - d. Professional staff leadership from all religious groups. This includes, but is not limited to, staff advisors to groups, religious leaders, communal professionals, and Chapel House affiliate community members. All professional staff and affiliates are welcome to attend all meetings and functions, but the right to vote is limited to the student representatives.

- II. The purpose of *The Interfaith Council* is to assist students in recognizing their individual and collective influence as faith leaders. The Interfaith Council seeks to foster a cooperative and supportive relationship among student leaders of faith-based organizations in an effort to create a greater sense of unity among the overall student population on campus.

- III. A student faith group is defined by the following:
 - a. The group is a Student Association recognized group in good standing.
 - b. The group's primary goal is religious/faith-based, as is listed in its mission statement. The groups will be required to review their mission statement with the Student Activities representative prior to placement on the council.

- IV. This group will meet at least four times each semester. Responsibility for scheduling these meetings will rest with a student representative of the Council and the Office of Student Activities. The meetings will serve to:

- a. Review the state of activity by religious groups.
 - b. Provide a forum for mutual consultation among campus religious groups.
 - c. Receive from the University information and/or requests relevant to its purpose.
 - d. Plan and implement interfaith programs.
 - e. Vote by consensus on any issues brought to the council for resolution.
- V. In order to promote the appropriate expression of religious freedom at the University at Albany the following principles and guidelines have been adopted and agreed to by the undersigned representatives of campus religious groups and organizations. Other groups that may come to the University in the future and wish to join the Council will be asked to join in this agreement.
- a. All activities involving University members shall be carried out in accordance with Community Rights and Responsibilities at the University at Albany.
 - b. All meetings of the council shall be public meetings. All students will be able to use the council as a forum to raise issues of faith as relevant to the campus. The Council may choose to call an executive session in which voting members may remain, with advisement from staff advisors (as outlined in Section I, letter D).
 - c. The presentation of religious ideas shall always be subject to the freedom of individuals to accede to, or reject, such ideas in an atmosphere of openness and respect for their integrity, beliefs, and all the differences which characterize the University community.
 - d. Members of the groups will respect one another's traditions and efforts and be supportive of one another. They will refrain from publicly or privately demeaning the beliefs and practices of groups or individuals which differ from their own and seek to represent the beliefs of other faiths accurately.
 - e. In all activities of the Council, there shall be no intentional misrepresentation of ideas, methods, or purposes.
 - f. Religious groups will be guided in their efforts by a commitment to enhancing the religious life of the community and its members.

Guidelines to be approved by first meeting of the Interfaith Council.

CHAPEL HOUSE AFFILIATE PROGRAM

For NON-CAMPUS RELIGIOUS LEADERS at the UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Religious leaders who are not students, faculty or staff and who seek recognition and support for their ministry on the campus of the University at Albany are asked to submit the following information to Chapel House. The signature of the individual on this form indicates an understanding of the regulations which guide all religious ministries on the University at Albany campus, and a willingness to abide by these regulations.

Name _____ Office Phone _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

Email address _____

Religious Organization _____

Address of Headquarters _____

1. Are you ordained? _____ Denomination _____

2) Educational Attainment (College, Seminary, Degrees and Majors, or other Ministry training)

3) Are you involved with a Student Association recognized organization on campus? _____

If no, please explain your affiliation on campus:

2) What will be the major emphasis and activities of your ministry? _____

Students at the University at Albany represent a very broad cross-section of religious and denominational backgrounds. The University affirms the right of every student to live and believe and worship without pressure or coercion from other campus religious organizations. In order to practice my ministry on the campus, I affirm that I will respect the integrity and rights of every member of the University community and pledge not to seek conversions by harassing, coercing, or manipulating any person.

Date _____ Signature _____

If available, please attach a letter from your organization assigning you to the University at Albany campus.

Please return this form, along with any accompanying documentation to:

**Chapel House
University at Albany
1 University Dr.
Albany, NY 12222
518-489-8573 (phone)
518-489-8975 (fax)**

Chapel House reserves the right to verify any and all information submitted on this form.