

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Office of the Assistant Vice President for Student Life
Charter for the Coalition of Academic Teams (CAT)

Introduction

Through this Charter, the Assistant Vice President for Student Life recognizes the University's academic teams—The Chicago Debate Society, Model United Nations Team, College Bowl Team, Chess Team, Mock Trial Team and Moot Court Team—as the Coalition of Academic Teams (CAT). CAT's mission is to encourage, promote, and facilitate a broad mix of student-run competitive academic teams that will enrich the campus community and represent the University at competitions through the country.

The member teams of CAT should work independently to further individual team goals while understanding and supporting the efforts of other member teams. Representatives are encouraged to share intellectual material, human resources, and institutional memory to assist in the development of long term Coalition integrity while furthering the goals of each member team.

Committee Membership and Structure

This Coalition shall have a representative leadership Committee. The Committee of the Coalition of Academic Teams shall serve as the Coalition of Academic Teams named in Article IV §7(h), and Article XIV of the General Assembly By-Laws. The committee shall have a Chair as chosen pursuant to Article XIV § 5 of the General Assembly By-Laws, and a non-voting, ex-officio member in the Vice President for Student Affairs per Article III § 3(c)(ii) of the Assembly By-Laws. The Committee shall have a voting membership, which shall be comprised of one representative with voting privileges from each member team (usually the president of each member team), and two additional voting members shall be Assembly members pursuant to Article XIV §3 of the General Assembly By-Laws. CAT's advisor from the Center for Leadership and Involvement (CLI) shall be considered a member for organizational purposes, but shall not vote. The CAT Chair votes only to break a tie. The Chair shall be responsive to the needs of each member team and should meet with each member team separately to ensure proper representation of every team's needs and interests.

CAT Committee Meetings

CAT Committee meetings must be held at least once each quarter during the regular academic year (Autumn, Winter and Spring). The Chair shall schedule additional meetings at his or her discretion, or at the request of any member team. Individual team representatives will inform the Committee of the organizational philosophy of their member team, report on current and future activities, and discuss individual funding issues and relevant organizational progress. Where appropriate, the member teams should coordinate functions and advise and assist one another.

Distribution of CAT's Student Activities Fee Allocation

In the Spring Quarter, after CAT has been notified of the allocation it will receive from the Student Activities Fee for the next academic year, the Committee shall meet to distribute the allocation between the member teams.

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Updated MAY
2017
w/ Moot Court

In making the distribution, the Committee should strive to provide equitable funding to all of the member teams, to promote the growth and development of each team, and to recognize the potential of emerging teams. Committee members should take into account not only the interests of their own respective teams, but the interests of the other CAT teams as well.

Each member team's representative shall present the team's current budget, a summary of expenses for the current year, and a budget request for the next fiscal year. The Committee shall review overall group goals, membership, and needs. Following the team presentations and discussion, the individual member team representatives will make all reasonable efforts to reach consensus and agreement on the distribution. If a consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be taken. A two-thirds majority is required for passage. The CAT Chair shall then communicate the funding agreement in writing to the Assistant Vice President for Student Life and the Director of CLI. The letter should announce the distribution, provide pertinent financial information, and summarize the competitive successes each team has had during the year. Within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the letter, the Assistant Vice President for Student Life will write to the CAT Chair to accept the CAT Committee's distribution agreement or to send the agreement back to the Committee for further discussion.

New Members

A recognized student organization (RSO) desiring to become a member of CAT must: (a) be intercollegiately competitive; (b) further an intellectual or academic endeavor; (c) be open to all University students (both graduate and undergraduate); (d) be governed by students; (e) exist on campus for a minimum of one academic year, and seek funding through the Student Government Finance Committee (SGFC).

After a minimum of one academic year as an RSO, an emerging team may approach the CAT Committee to seek membership in CAT. To apply for admission to CAT, an emerging team must submit a letter of intent and a detailed proposal to the CAT Chair with copies submitted to the CLI advisor and the Assistant Vice President for Student Life. Applications must be received by the end of the Winter Quarter to be considered for admission effective with the Spring Quarter distribution-of-funds meeting. Upon receipt of the application, the emerging team will be invited to make a presentation at a meeting of the CAT Committee, after which the Committee will vote to recommend for or against admission. A two-thirds majority vote is required to recommend admission. Based on the CAT Committee's recommendation, the Assistant Vice President for Student Life and the CLI Director will admit or deny an emerging team's proposed membership.


Revocation of Membership

A CAT team's membership will be revoked when (a) it ceases to be a recognized student organization (RSO), or (b) it is judged insufficiently active in intercollegiate competition by a two-thirds majority vote of CAT Committee members with the concurrence of the Assistant Vice President for Student Life, or a designee.

Amendments to the Charter

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CAT can propose a revision to this Charter at any time through a two-thirds majority vote of the Committee. The CAT Chair will present the proposed change to the Assistant Vice President for Student Life and will recommend a course of action to the Assistant Vice President for Student Life. Changes to the Charter must be approved by Assistant Vice President for Student Life in order to take effect.

Signature:  *Asst Vice President / Student Life*

Date: May 1, 2017

