

Sam Houston State University
A Member of The Texas State University System

Finance & Operations Policy FO-11
MEMBERSHIPS-CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Public supported institutions of higher education in Texas are prohibited from holding memberships in Chambers of Commerce (reference The Attorney General of Texas Opinion No. JM-516, 1986 and H-397, 1974). Such memberships are in violation of the Texas Constitution, Article III, which prohibits the granting of public money or thing of value in aid of any individual, association, or corporation. State appropriated and local funds are both forms of public money. Chamber of Commerce are private corporations serving private purposes for the profit of their individual and business members.

Memberships may be approved by the appropriate Vice President when each of the following conditions are met:

1. Membership shall be in the name of the University, not in an individual's name.
2. Shall directly serve a university purpose which is specifically related to the function of the requesting department; and
3. Shall be paid out of gift funds only.

Payment for memberships or dues to Chambers of Commerce shall be handled on the Membership form through BearKatBuy. The appropriate workflow for approvals is built into the form. A statement shall be given on the form as to the business purpose and benefit that the University will receive from the membership.

Reviewed by: Tessy Rappé-AVP Finance & Operations
 Reneé Starns-Exec. Director Procurement & Business Services

Review Date: October 2016

Next Review Date: December 2019