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# Room for One More

**At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a loose policy for creating organizations on campus aims to encourage students follow their passions while being in college**

What's great about the University of Wisconsin is that if you are really passionate about ducks, there's an org for that. If you want to join an army of Nerdfighters, there's an org for that. And if you want to twerk with a group of other twerk-enthusiasts, there's even an org for that. Yep, there's an org for just about anything at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Although there are currently 949 registered campus organizations this year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, each year students turn in even more applications to officially become organizations on campus than the previous year.

Jeff Benson, Interim Assistant Director of Advising and Technology for the Center for Leadership and Involvement (CFLI) advises organizations' leaders and provides resources for students looking to improve their organizations.

"We continue to try to promote to students that you can find something to be passionate about and to spend your time with," Benson said, "and if you can't find it with something that exists you can start it by having essentially three of your friends starting this organization with you."

There are few requirements for creating a new: there must be four part-time enrolled student leaders, a drafted constitution or set of bylaws, relevancy to some aspect of students on campus and a not-for-profit status.

"It's not our business to judge

the groups on whether they should or should not exist," Benson said.

This mindset causes concern for leadership at CFLI. Benson said he's unsure if allowing too many organizations to exist makes involvement unnecessarily difficult.

"We actually worry about a bit that when we have 940ish orgs like we do now, if you're a new student or a transfer student, how do you dig through that to find something?" Benson said.

However, there are ways to narrow down organizations on the Wisconsin Involvement Network page, run by CFLI, to find organizations tailored to

each student's preferences, Benson said.

Although Benson said he foresees a plateau naturally occurring in the future, he believes that the leniency of organization-creation serves an important purpose for students. Benson said,

"I think that's a great message for students to know that you should find a passion and should be able to do that in addition to your studies."

**The Red Gym and Center for Leadership and Involvement by the numbers:**

12

categories of orgs at UW-Madison, such as Greek and Honorary

948

total orgs on campus, from Cupcake Club to Running Club

6

orgs currently suspended for various misconducts

535

orgs in the Academic/Professional category on the WIN network

8

types of involvement opportunities supported by CFLI

▲ The historic Red Gym houses the Center for Leadership and Involvement, its staff and numerous other UW-Madison organizations while serving as an iconic landmark on campus

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