

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY CHAPTER
OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW, a/k/a
HASTINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP,

No. C 04-04484 JSW

Plaintiff,

v.

**ORDER RE MOTIONS FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

MARY KAY KANE, et al.,

Defendants.

Now before the Court is the motion for summary judgment filed by plaintiff Christian Legal Society Chapter of University of California, Hastings College of the Law, a/k/a Hastings Christian Fellowship (“CLS”) and cross-motions for summary judgment filed by defendants Mary Kay Kane, Judy Chapman, Maureen E. Corcoran, Eugene L. Freeland, Carin T. Fujisaki, John T. Knox, Jan Lewenhaupt, James E. Mahoney, Brian D. Monaghan, Bruce L. Simon, John K. Smith, and Tony West (collectively “Hastings” or “Hastings Defendants”) and intervenor-defendant Hastings Outlaw (“Outlaw”). Having carefully reviewed the parties’ papers and considered their arguments and the relevant legal authority, and good cause appearing, the Court hereby DENIES CLS’s motion for summary judgment and GRANTS Hastings’ and Outlaws’ cross-motions for summary judgment.¹

¹ Hastings objects to portions of the Declaration of Steven H. Aden submitted by CLS. Outlaw joined in the evidentiary objections. The Court sustains the objection based on lack of personal knowledge to paragraph 13 of the Aden Declaration to the extent it declares that the “Hastings Republicans is (sic) a chapter of California College Republicans and as such, abides by its constitution” and the portion of Exhibit K attaching the Constitution of the

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

This case concerns whether a religious student organization may compel a public university law school to fund its activities and to allow the group to use the school's name and facilities even though the organization admittedly discriminates in the selection of its members and officers on the basis of religion and sexual orientation.

CLS is an unincorporated student organization comprised of students attending University of California, Hastings College of the Law (the "Law School"). (Joint Stipulation of Facts for Cross-Motions for Summary Judgment ("Joint Stip."), ¶ 1.) The mission of CLS is "to maintain a vibrant Christian Law Fellowship on the School's campus which enables its members, individually and as a group, to love the Lord with their whole beings—hearts, souls, and minds—and to love their neighbors as themselves." (*Id.*, Ex. E.) In the beginning of the 2004-2005 academic year, CLS applied for, but was denied the privilege of becoming a recognized student organization at the Law School. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 38-42.)

University of California, Hastings College of the Law is a public law school located in San Francisco and is part of the University of California school system. (*Id.*, ¶ 2.) Mary Kay Kane is the Chancellor and Dean of the Law School. Judy Chapman is the Director of the Office of Student Services, and the remaining defendants, Maureen E. Corcoran, Eugene L. Freeland, Carin T. Fujisaki, John T. Knox, Jan Lewenhaupt, James E. Mahoney, Brian D. Monaghan, Bruce L. Simon, John K. Smith, and Tony West, are members of the Board of Directors of the Law School. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 3-5.)

The Hastings Defendants permit student organizations to register with the Office of Student Services. (*Id.*, ¶ 6.) Student organizations must be registered in order to gain access to the following benefits: (a) use of the Law School's name and logo; (b) use of certain bulletin boards in the basement of Snodgrass Hall; (c) eligibility for a Law School organization email

California College Republicans. The Court overrules the remaining evidentiary objections.

Since the hearing on the cross-motions, the parties have each filed several requests for leave to file supplemental authority. To the extent the parties seek leave to provide briefing on the supplemental authority and on the issues raised by the parties' cross-motions, the requests are DENIED. To the extent the parties merely seek leave to file additional authority, the Court has reviewed and considered the new authority, and thus DENIES the requests as MOOT.

address; (d) eligibility to send out mass emails through the Associated Students of the University of California at Hastings; (e) eligibility for a student organization account with fiscal services at the Law School; (f) eligibility to apply for student activity fee funding; (g) eligibility to apply for limited travel funds; (h) ability to place announcements in the Hastings Weekly, a weekly newsletter prepared and distributed by the Office of Student Services; (I) eligibility to apply for permission to use limited office space; (j) eligibility for the use of an organization voice mailbox for telephone messages; (k) listing on the Office of Student Services' website and any hard copy lists, including the Student Guidebook and admissions publications; (l) participation in the annual Student Organizations Faire; and (m) use of the Student Information Center for distribution of organization materials to the Law School community. (*Id.*, ¶ 9.) Registered student organizations may also apply for permission to use the Law School's rooms and audio-visual equipment for meetings. The Hastings Defendants have extended this benefit to CLS even though it is not a registered student organization. (*Id.*, ¶ 10.) The Hastings Defendants provide non-registered organizations access to certain bulletin boards and chalk boards at the Law School to make announcements. (*Id.*, ¶ 11.) Although the Hastings Defendants informed CLS that it could use the facilities at the Law School for its meetings, CLS never requested to use such facilities during the 2004-2005 academic year. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 58, 61.)

As a condition of becoming a "registered student organization," the Hastings Defendants require a student organization to comply with the Law School's Policies and Regulations Applying to College Activities, Organizations and Students, which requires, *inter alia*, registered student organizations to abide by the Policy on Nondiscrimination ("Nondiscrimination Policy"). (*Id.*, ¶¶ 12, 14.) The Nondiscrimination Policy provides:

The College is committed to a policy against legally impermissible, arbitrary or unreasonable discriminatory practices. All groups, including administration, faculty, student governments, College-owned student residence facilities and programs sponsored by the College, are governed by this policy of nondiscrimination....

The University of California, Hastings College of the Law shall not discriminate unlawfully on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, sex or sexual orientation. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access and treatment in Hastings-sponsored programs and activities.

(*Id.*, ¶ 15.) Hastings requires registered student organizations to allow any student to participate, become a member, or seek leadership positions, regardless of their status or beliefs. (*Id.*, ¶ 18.)

From the 1994-1995 academic year to the 2003-2004 academic year, a student organization calling itself either Hastings Christian Legal Society or the Hastings Christian Fellowship was a registered student organization at Hastings. (*Id.*, ¶ 22.) From the 1994-1995 academic year through the 2001-2002 academic year, the student organization used a set of bylaws which appear to be an old version of the chapter bylaws distributed by the National Christian Legal Society. (*Id.*, ¶ 23.) These bylaws provided that the objectives of the organization were to “encourage those who identify themselves as followers of Jesus Christ to more faithfully live out their commitment in their personal and academic lives, to prepare members for future lives as Christian attorneys, and to provide a witness and outreach for Jesus Christ in the Hastings community.” (*Id.*, Ex. C.) The bylaws required voting members to acknowledge in writing their agreement with the following “Statement of Faith”:

Trusting in Jesus Christ as my Savior, I believe in:

- The Bible as the inspired word of God;
- The Deity of our Lord, Jesus Christ, God’s son;
- The vicarious death of Jesus Christ for our sins; His bodily resurrection and His personal return.
- The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration.
- Jesus Christ, God’s son, is Lord of my life;

(*Id.*, Ex. C.) However, there is no evidence that Hastings Christian Legal Society or the Hastings Christian Fellowship ever enforced this requirement. (*Id.*, ¶ 57.) Moreover, the bylaws also stated that the members and the organization would “comply with the Policies and Regulations Applying to College Activities, Organizations, and Students.” (*Id.*, Ex. C.)

During the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 academic years, the student organization used a different set of bylaws. These bylaws provided: “HCF welcomes all students of the University of California, Hastings College of law.” (*Id.*, ¶ 25.) This organization did not exclude members on the basis of religion or sexual orientation. (*Id.*)

During the 2003-2004 academic year, approximately five to seven students attended their meetings and events. (*Id.*, ¶ 26.) During that year, one of the participants in the meetings

1 was an openly lesbian student and two were students who held beliefs inconsistent with what
2 CLS considers to be orthodox Christianity. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 27-28.)

3 At the end of the 2003-2004 academic year, Isaac Fong (“Fong”), Dina Haddad
4 (“Haddad”) and Julie Chan (“Chan”) became the leaders of the Hastings Christian Fellowship.
5 Fong and Haddad decided to affiliate their student organization officially with a national
6 organization known as the Christian Legal Society (“CLS-National”). (*Id.*, ¶ 30-31.) CLS-
7 National requires its formally-associated student chapters to use a specific set of bylaws. (*Id.*, ¶
8 32, Ex. E.) The bylaws require any student who wants to become a member to sign a
9 “Statement of Faith” which provides:

10 Trusting in Jesus Christ as my Savior, I believe in:

- 11 • One God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- 12 • God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
- 13 • The Deity of our Lord, Jesus Christ, God’s only Son conceived of the Holy
14 Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; His vicarious death for our sins through
15 which we receive eternal life; His bodily resurrection and personal return.
- 16 • The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration.
- 17 • The Bible as the inspired Word of God.

18 (*Id.*, ¶ 33.) CLS will not permit students who do not sign the Statement of Faith to become
19 members or officers. CLS also bars individuals who engage in “unrepentant homosexual
20 conduct” or are members of religions that have tenets which differ from those set forth in the
21 Statement of Faith from becoming members or officers. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 34-35.) The bylaws also
22 pronounce a “code of conduct” for officers which provides that officers “must exemplify the
23 highest standards of morality as set forth in Scripture.” (*Id.*, Ex. E at 2.)

24 While only actual members of CLS may vote for or remove officers, stand for election to
25 become an officer, or vote to amend the organization’s constitution, CLS’s meetings and
26 activities are open to all students, regardless of their religion or sexual orientation. (*Id.*, ¶ 36.)

27 In early September 2004, CLS also applied to the Office of Student Services for travel
28 funds to attend CLS-National’s annual conference, and initially, Hastings informed CLS that
such funds were being set aside for CLS. (*Id.*, ¶ 37.) On September 17, 2004, CLS submitted
its registration form and set of bylaws to the Office of Student Services. (*Id.*, ¶ 38.) Hastings
informed CLS that its bylaws did not appear to be compliant with the Nondiscrimination Policy,

1 in particular the religion and sexual orientation provisions, and invited CLS to discuss changing
2 them. Hastings further advised CLS that to become a recognized student organization, CLS
3 would have to open its membership to all students irrespective of their religion or sexual
4 orientation. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 39-41.) Subsequently, due to CLS's failure to become a registered student
5 organization, Hastings informed CLS that the travel funds previously set aside for CLS had been
6 withdrawn. (*Id.*, ¶ 42.)

7 Despite not being a recognized student organization, throughout the 2004-2005
8 academic year, CLS held weekly Bible-study meetings, and hosted a beach barbeque, a
9 Thanksgiving dinner, a campus lecture on the Christian faith and legal practice, several
10 fellowship dinners, an end-of-year banquet, and several informal social activities. CLS also
11 invited Hastings students to attend Good Friday and Easter Sunday church services with the
12 organization. (*Id.*, ¶ 44.) The Bible studies were led by one of CLS's officers, but any attendee
13 or member was welcome to lead the group in prayer, share prayer requests, and otherwise
14 participate in prayer. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 49, 51.)

15 Between nine to fifteen Hastings students regularly attended CLS's meetings and
16 activities during the 2004-2005 academic year. (*Id.*, ¶ 48.) Julie Chan, CLS's treasurer,
17 resigned from her position and membership in January 2005. In addition to CLS's officers, one
18 other student became an official member of CLS during the academic year. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 47-48.) No
19 known non-Christian, gay, lesbian, or bisexual students sought to join CLS as a member or
20 officer, or attend any of its meetings during the 2004-2005 academic year. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 50, 54.) As
21 of October 2005, seven Hastings students, including three officers, joined CLS as members for
22 the 2005-2006 academic year. (*Id.*, ¶ 64.)

23 CLS filed a complaint in this action asserting that Hastings is violating: (1) CLS's rights
24 to freedom of expressive association pursuant to the First Amendment of the United States
25 Constitution; (2) CLS's free speech pursuant to the First Amendment; (3) the Establishment
26 Clause of the First Amendment; (4) the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment; (5)
27 the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment; and (6) the Equal Protection Clause of the
28 Fourteenth Amendment. On April 12, 2005, the Court granted a motion by Hastings to dismiss

1 CLS's establishment, due process, and equal protection claims, but granted CLS leave to amend
 2 its equal protection claim. On May 3, 2005, CLS filed an amended complaint which asserts an
 3 amended equal protection claim. CLS, Hastings, and Outlaw have each filed cross-motions for
 4 summary judgment on each of CLS's claims for free speech, expressive association, free
 5 exercise and equal protection.

6 ANALYSIS

7 A. Legal Standard on Summary Judgment.

8 A principal purpose of the summary judgment procedure is to identify and dispose of
 9 factually unsupported claims. *Celotex Corp. v. Cattrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 323-24 (1986).
 10 Summary judgment is proper when the "pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, and
 11 admissions on file, together with the affidavits, if any, show that there is no genuine issue as to
 12 any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Fed. R.
 13 Civ. P. 56(c).

14 A party moving for summary judgment who does not have the ultimate burden of
 15 persuasion at trial, must produce evidence which either negates an essential element of the non-
 16 moving party's claims or show that the non-moving party does not have enough evidence of an
 17 essential element to carry its ultimate burden of persuasion at trial. *Nissan Fire & Marine Ins.*
 18 *Co. v. Fritz Cos.*, 210 F.3d 1099, 1102 (9th Cir. 2000). A party who moves for summary
 19 judgment who does bear the burden of proof at trial, must produce evidence that would entitle
 20 him or her to a directed verdict if the evidence went uncontroverted at trial. *C.A.R. Transp.*
 21 *Brokerage Co., Inc. v. Darden*, 213 F.3d 474, 480 (9th Cir. 2000).

22 Once the moving party meets his or her initial burden, the non-moving party must go
 23 beyond the pleadings and by its own evidence "set forth specific facts showing that there is a
 24 genuine issue for trial." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e). In order to make this showing, the non-moving
 25 party must "identify with reasonable particularity the evidence that precludes summary
 26 judgment." *Keenan v. Allan*, 91 F.3d 1275, 1279 (9th Cir. 1996). It is not the Court's task to
 27 "scour the record in search of a genuine issue of triable fact." *Id.* (quoting *Richards v.*
 28 *Combined Ins. Co.*, 55 F.3d 247, 251 (7th Cir. 1995)). If the non-moving party fails to make

1 this showing, the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. *Celotex*, 477 U.S. at
 2 323. An issue of fact is “genuine” only if there is sufficient evidence for a reasonable fact finder
 3 to find for the non-moving party. *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248-49 (1986).
 4 A fact is “material” if it may affect the outcome of the case. *Id.* at 248. “In considering a
 5 motion for summary judgment, the court may not weigh the evidence or make credibility
 6 determinations, and is required to draw all inferences in a light most favorable to the non-
 7 moving party.” *Freeman v. Arpaio*, 125 F.3d 723, 735 (9th Cir. 1997).

8 **B. Cross-Motions for Summary Judgment.**

9 CLS contends that Hastings’ enforcement of its Nondiscrimination Policy, and its refusal
 10 to grant CLS an exception to exclude students on the basis of religion and sexual orientation,
 11 infringes its members’ rights to free speech, free association, free exercise, and equal protection.
 12 As set forth below, the Court finds that Hastings’ uniform enforcement of its Nondiscrimination
 13 Policy infringes none of these constitutional rights.

14 **1. First Amendment: Free Speech.**

15 **a. Regulation of Conduct.**

16 **i. Hastings’ Nondiscrimination Policy Regulates Speech.**

17 The parties dispute whether Hastings’ Nondiscrimination Policy regulates speech or
 18 conduct. The Nondiscrimination Policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion and
 19 sexual orientation, among other categories. (Joint Stip., ¶ 15.) Courts have consistently held
 20 that regulations prohibiting discrimination, similar to Hastings’ Nondiscrimination Policy,
 21 regulate conduct, not speech. *See Hurley v. Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group*
 22 *of Boston*, 515 U.S. 557 (1995); *Roberts v. United States Jaycees*, 468 U.S. 609, 624 (1984);
 23 *Jews for Jesus, Inc. v. Jewish Cmty Relations Council of New York*, 968 F.2d 286, 295 (2d Cir.
 24 1992).

25 In *Roberts*, two local chapters of the United States Jaycees (“Jaycees”) had been
 26 admitting women as full members for years, in violation of the Jaycees’ organization’s bylaws
 27 restricting “regular” membership to men between the ages of 18 and 35. *Roberts*, 468 U.S. at
 28 613-14. When the Jaycees sought to revoke the charters of the local chapters, members of the

1 chapters filed complaints alleging the exclusion of women from full membership violated the
2 state Human Rights Act, which prohibited discrimination in public accommodations on the
3 basis of race, color, creed, religion, disability, national origin or sex. *Id.* at 614-15. The
4 Supreme Court found that “[o]n its face,” the state anti-discrimination statute “[did] not aim at
5 the suppression of speech, [did] not distinguish between prohibited and permitted activity on the
6 basis of viewpoint, and [did] not license enforcement authorities to administer the statute on the
7 basis of such constitutionally impermissible criteria.” *Id.* at 623. The Court further found that
8 the goal of the statute was to eliminate discrimination and assure the state’s citizens equal
9 access to publicly available goods and services and that this goal was “unrelated to the
10 suppression of expression.” *Id.* at 624.

11 In *Jews for Jesus*, under the threat of an economic boycott from the Jewish Community
12 Relations Council of New York (“JCRC”) and other organizations, a resort cancelled a contract
13 to provide meals and accommodations to a non-profit religious corporation, Jews for Jesus, Inc.
14 *Jews for Jesus*, 968 F.2d at 290. Jews for Jesus and a member of the organization argued that
15 the JCRC aided or incited the resort to deprive them of their right to public accommodations
16 without discrimination on the basis of race and/or creed under state law. *Id.* at 293. The state
17 statute at issue prohibited discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of race, creed,
18 color, or national origin. *Id.* at 293. The Second Circuit rejected the JCRC’s contention that the
19 state anti-discrimination statute was unconstitutional as applied because it impermissibly
20 regulated its “speech” in applying economic pressure on the resort. *Id.* at 295. The court found
21 that the state statute prohibiting discrimination on the basis of, among other things, race and
22 religion, was “plainly aimed at conduct, *i.e.*, discrimination, not speech.” *Id.*

23 In *Hurley*, Massachusetts enforced a state statute prohibiting discrimination in public
24 accommodations against a group of private citizens in an unincorporated association, the South
25 Boston Allied War Veterans Council (“Council”), who were organizing a St. Patrick’s Day
26 parade. *Hurley*, 515 U.S. at 561. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual descendants of Irish immigrants
27 formed an organization called GLIB “to march in the parade as way to express pride in their
28 Irish heritage as openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals.” *Id.* When the Council refused

1 to allow GLIB to participate in the parade, GLIB and several of its members filed an action
2 against the Council alleging it violated the state public accommodations law which prohibited
3 discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. *Id.* The state trial court agreed with GLIB and
4 rejected the Council's claim that requiring it to admit GLIB would violate its First Amendment
5 rights because the Council's parade had a wide variety of themes and conflicting messages. *Id.*
6 at 562.

7 The Supreme Court found that the public accommodations law "[did] not, on its face,
8 target speech or discriminate on the basis of its content, the focal point of its prohibition being
9 rather on the act of discriminating against individuals." *Id.* at 572. Nevertheless, the Court
10 reversed the state court's ruling because of the "peculiar" manner in which the statute had been
11 applied. *Id.* The Court found that parades are a form of expression and that the selection of a
12 parade's contingents is entitled to protection under the First Amendment. *Id.* at 568-70. The
13 Court held that every contingent participating in the parade affects the message conveyed by the
14 private organizers, and thus, the state court's application of the statute essentially required the
15 Council to alter the expressive content of its parade. *Id.* at 572-73. It was significant to the
16 Court's analysis that the dispute did not concern an attempt to exclude participation of all
17 openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual individuals from marching in approved parade units. In fact, the
18 Council expressly disclaimed any intent to exclude gay, lesbian or bisexual individuals from
19 participating generally. Rather, the Court found that the Council was concerned with excluding
20 a group from marching behind a particular banner. *Id.* at 572.

21 The Supreme Court recently reiterated the distinction between regulating speech and
22 conduct in *Rumsfeld v. Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights, Inc.*, 126 S.Ct. 1297
23 (2006), when it affirmed the enforcement of the Solomon Amendment against law schools with
24 policies that prohibit discrimination on the basis of, among other things, sexual orientation. The
25 Solomon Amendment provides that "if any part of an institution of higher education denies
26 military recruiters access equal to that provided other recruiters, the entire institution will lose
27 certain federal funds." *Id.* at 1302. The Supreme Court rejected the argument by an association
28 of laws schools and law faculties that requiring law schools with anti-discrimination policies to

1 provide the same level of access to the military recruiters as employers who do not discriminate
 2 on the basis of sexual orientation infringed the association's members' First Amendment rights.
 3 The Court held that:

4 [t]he Solomon Amendment neither limits what law schools may say nor requires
 5 them to say anything. Law schools remain free under the statute to express whatever
 6 views they may have on the military's congressionally mandated employment policy,
 7 all the while retaining eligibility for federal funds. ... As a general matter, the
 8 Solomon Amendment regulates conduct, not speech. It affects what law schools
 9 must *do* – afford equal access to military recruiters – not what they may or may not
 10 *say*.

11 *Id.* at 1307 (emphasis in original); *see also Evans v. City of Berkeley*, 38 Cal. 4th 1, 40 Cal.
 12 Rptr. 3d 205, 212 (2006) (holding that a city's requirement that an organization comply with a
 13 nondiscrimination resolution did not require the organization to espouse or denounce any
 14 particular viewpoint).

15 Akin to *Hurley*, *Roberts*, *Jews for Jesus*, and *Evans*, the Court finds that on its face,
 16 Hastings' Nondiscrimination Policy targets conduct, *i.e.* discrimination, not speech. As in
 17 *Rumsfeld*, the Court finds that the Nondiscrimination Policy regulates conduct, not speech
 18 because it affects what CLS must *do* if it wants to become a registered student organization –
 19 not engage in discrimination – not what CLS may or may not *say* regarding its beliefs on non-
 20 orthodox Christianity or homosexuality.

21 In *Hurley*, even though the Court found that the anti-discrimination statute did not target
 22 speech on its face, the Court focused on the “peculiar” application of the statute to require a
 23 private entity organizing a parade to admit a group seeking to march behind a particular banner.
 24 Significantly, the private group expressly disclaimed any intent to exclude all openly gay,
 25 lesbian, or bisexual individuals from participating in other approved parade contingents.
 26 *Hurley*, 515 U.S. at 572-73. In contrast to *Hurley*, CLS is not excluding certain students who
 27 wish to make a particular statement, but rather, CLS is excluding all students who are lesbian,
 28 gay, bisexual, or not orthodox Christian.²

² Although CLS argues that it does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, but merely excludes students who engage in or advocate homosexual conduct, (CLS Mot. at 22), this is a distinction without a difference. *See Lawrence v. Texas*, 539 U.S. 558, 583 (2003) (O'Connor, J., concurring) (rejecting attempt to distinguish statute discriminating

1 The facts in this case further demonstrate that Hastings' Nondiscrimination Policy is
2 directed at conduct, not speech. Notably, here, a predecessor of CLS met as a recognized group
3 on Hastings' campus for the previous ten years. (Joint Stip, ¶ 22: "From the 1994-1995
4 academic year to the 2003-2004 academic year, a student organization calling itself either
5 Hastings Christian Legal Society ("HCLS") or the Hastings Christian Fellowship ("HCF")
6 existed as a registered student organization at Hastings."). The predecessor group did not
7 exclude members on the basis of religion or sexual orientation. (*Id.* at 25.) As long as the
8 organization admitted all students who wanted to join, it was free to express any ideas or
9 viewpoints. It was not until CLS refused to comply with the Nondiscrimination Policy that
10 Hastings withheld recognition. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 33-35, 39-41.)

11 At the hearing on these motions, CLS argued that Hastings' enforcement of its
12 Nondiscrimination Policy suppressed CLS's speech that "homosexuality is not Christian." First,
13 as discussed above, the evidence does not show that CLS has been precluded from expressing
14 any particular idea or viewpoint. Rather, to become a recognized student group, Hastings
15 requires that CLS merely refrain from excluding students on the basis of their religion or sexual
16 orientation. Second, even if the record could be construed to support CLS's position that its
17 "speech" regarding homosexuality has been suppressed, CLS has not shown that the
18 Nondiscrimination Policy targets speech as opposed to conduct. As the Supreme Court stated in
19 *R.A.V.*, if the government regulates conduct for reasons unrelated to its expressive content, such
20 conduct does not become shielded from regulation merely because it expresses a discriminatory
21 idea or philosophy. *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*, 505 U.S. 377, 390 (1992); *see also Jews for Jesus*,
22 968 F.2d at 295 ("simply because speech or other expressive conduct can in some circumstances
23 be the vehicle for violating a statute directed at regulating conduct does not render that statute
24 unconstitutional.").

25 _____
26 against "homosexual conduct" from one discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation:
27 "While it is true that the law applies only to conduct, the conduct targeted by this law is
28 conduct that is closely correlated with being homosexual. Under such circumstances, [the
State] sodomy law is targeted at more than conduct. It is instead directed toward gay persons
as a class."); *see also Karouni v. Gonzales*, 399 F.3d 1163, 1173 (9th Cir. 2005) (finding "no
appreciable difference between an individual ... being persecuted for being a homosexual and
being persecuted for engaging in homosexual acts").

1 Therefore, the Court concludes that on its face and in its application to CLS, the
2 Nondiscrimination Policy regulates conduct, not speech.

3 **ii. Analysis Pursuant to *United States v. O'Brien*.**

4 Because the Court finds that the Nondiscrimination Policy regulates conduct, the Court
5 will analyze whether CLS's free speech rights have been infringed pursuant to the standard from
6 *United States v. O'Brien*, 391 U.S. 367 (1968), which sets forth the standard for determining
7 when government regulation of conduct violates First Amendment speech protections. *See Jews*
8 *for Jesus*, 968 F.2d at 295 (analyzing constitutionality of nondiscrimination statute under
9 *O'Brien* standard); *Presbytery of New Jersey of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church v. Florio*,
10 902 F. Supp. 492 (D.N.J. 1995) (same). Under *O'Brien*, governmental regulation of conduct is
11 valid, even if it incidentally restricts speech, so long as: (1) the regulation is within the
12 constitutional power of the government; (2) it furthers an important or substantial government
13 interest; (3) the government interest is unrelated to the suppression of free expression; and (4)
14 the incidental restriction on the alleged First Amendment freedoms is no greater than is essential
15 to the furtherance of that interest. *O'Brien*, 391 U.S. at 377.

16 States have the constitutional authority and a substantial, indeed compelling, interest in
17 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of religion and sexual orientation. *See Roberts*, 468 U.S.
18 at 624 (holding that the state had a compelling interest "of the highest order" in eradicating sex
19 discrimination); *see also Jews for Jesus*, 968 F.2d at 295 ("New York has the constitutional
20 authority to prohibit, and a substantial, indeed compelling, interest in prohibiting racial and
21 religious discrimination in obtaining public accommodations."); *Presbytery of New Jersey*, 902
22 F. Supp. at 521 (finding state interest in eliminating discrimination on the basis of, *inter alia*,
23 sexual orientation, was "not only substantial but also [could] be characterized as compelling");
24 *Gay Rights Coal. of Georgetown Univ. Law Center v. Georgetown Univ.*, 536 A.2d 1, 38 (D.C.
25 1987) ("The eradication of sexual orientation discrimination is a compelling governmental
26 interest."). The interest in prohibiting discrimination is particularly critical in the context of
27 education. *See e.g., Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 306, 331-32 (2003) ("ensuring that public
28 institutions are open and available to all segments of American society, including people of all

1 races and ethnicities, represents a paramount government objective [N]owhere is the
 2 importance of such openness more acute than in the context of higher education.”) (quotations
 3 and internal citations omitted); *see also Butt v. State of California*, 4 Cal. 4th 668, 680 (1992)
 4 (“In view of the importance of education to society and to the individual child, the opportunity
 5 to receive the schooling furnished by the state must be made available to all on an equal basis.”).

6 Moreover, “[t]he governmental interest in prohibiting such discrimination ... is not
 7 directed at or related to suppression expression.” *Jews for Jesus*, 968 F.2d at 295; *see also*
 8 *Roberts*, 468 U.S. at 624 (goal of eliminating discrimination “is unrelated to the suppression of
 9 expression”); *Presbytery of New Jersey*, 902 F. Supp. at 521 (same). Therefore, the Court
 10 concludes that the Policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of religion and sexual
 11 orientation, among other categories, is within the Hastings’ constitutional authority as a state
 12 institution, and that the Nondiscrimination Policy furthers a governmental interest unrelated to
 13 the suppression of free expression – protecting students from discrimination. Furthermore, as
 14 discussed above, the facts here, including Hastings’ recognition of a predecessor of CLS for the
 15 previous ten years, confirm that Hastings’ Nondiscrimination Policy is directed at conduct
 16 unrelated to the suppression of expression. (Joint Stip, ¶¶ 22, 25, 33-35, 39-41.) Thus, the first
 17 three prongs of the *O’Brien* test have been satisfied.

18 With respect to the last prong of the *O’Brien* test, courts have found that the incidental
 19 restrictions on free speech rights when a government enforces an anti-discrimination statute
 20 against an organization seeking to exclude individuals were no greater than essential to the
 21 furtherance of the state’s interest in prohibiting discrimination. *See Jews for Jesus*, 968 F.2d at
 22 296 (holding the nondiscrimination statute was “no broader than necessary to further the
 23 legitimate goal of eradicating discrimination.”); *see also Evans*, 40 Cal. Rptr. 3d at 217 (holding
 24 that requiring a group to agree in advance not to discriminate was “a reasonable and narrowly
 25 tailored step to implement the diversity and nondiscrimination provisions” of a city resolution).
 26 “[A]n incidental burden on speech is no greater than essential, and therefore permissible under
 27 *O’Brien*, so long as the neutral regulation promotes a substantial government interest that would
 28 be achieved less effectively absent the regulation.” *Rumsfeld*, 126 S.Ct. at 1311. The Hastings’

1 Nondiscrimination Policy easily meets this standard. Hastings' interest in eradicating
 2 discrimination would certainly be achieved less effectively without a policy which prohibits the
 3 harmful conduct. Moreover, the Court notes that the Nondiscrimination Policy only targets the
 4 conduct of discrimination. As long as student groups do not exclude students based on the
 5 prohibited categories, the groups are free to express any beliefs or perspectives they choose.
 6 Thus, the Court finds Hastings' implementation of its Nondiscrimination Policy the most direct
 7 method of achieving Hastings' goal of eradicating harmful discrimination.

8 Accordingly, the Court concludes that Hastings' enforcement of its Nondiscrimination
 9 Policy meets all four prongs of the *O'Brien* test, and thus, does not unconstitutionally infringe
 10 CLS's freedom of speech.

11 **b. Regulation of Speech.**

12 Alternatively, even if Hastings' Nondiscrimination Policy may be construed as
 13 regulating speech directly, it still passes constitutional muster. The validity of Hastings
 14 restricting access to its campus, and the level of scrutiny the Court must apply, turns on the type
 15 of forum Hastings has created. *See DiLoreto v. Downey Unified School Dist. Bd. of Ed.*, 196
 16 F.3d 958, 964 (9th Cir. 1999) ("The existence of a right to access to a public property and the
 17 standard by which limitations upon such right must be evaluated differ depending upon the
 18 character of the property at issue."). The parties dispute whether the forum at issue is a
 19 "designated public forum" or a "limited public forum." As the Ninth Circuit summarized in
 20 *DiLoreto*:

21 Forum analysis divides government property into three categories: public fora,
 22 designated public fora, and nonpublic fora. ...

23 A traditional public forum, such as a public park or sidewalk, is a place that
 24 has traditionally been available for public expression. ... Regulation of speech in a
 25 traditional public forum is permissible "only if ... narrowly drawn to achieve a
 26 compelling state interest. ... When the government intentionally opens a
 27 nontraditional forum for public discourse it creates a designated public forum. ...
 28 Restrictions on expressive activity in designated public fora are subject to the same
 limitations that govern a traditional public forum.

All remaining public property is classified as nonpublic fora. The
 government may limit expressive activity in nonpublic fora if the limitation is
 reasonable and not based on the speaker's viewpoint.

1 *Id.* at 964-65 (quotations and citations omitted). A “limited public forum” is “a type of
 2 nonpublic forum that the government has opened to certain groups or to certain topics.” *Id.* at
 3 965. Restrictions on expression in limited public forums are governed by the same standards
 4 that apply to nonpublic forums, *i.e.*, “restrictions that are viewpoint neutral and reasonable in
 5 light of the purpose served by the forum are permissible.” *Id.*³

6 “Generally, school facilities may be deemed to be public forums only if school
 7 authorities have by policy or practice opened those facilities for indiscriminate use by the
 8 general public.” *DiLoreto*, 196 F.3d at 966 (quotations and citations omitted). There is no
 9 evidence before the Court, and CLS does not contend, that Hastings has *indiscriminately* opened
 10 up its campus and allowed registration, and the attendant benefits, to the public generally. Nor
 11 is there evidence that any group of students may register. Rather, it is undisputed that Hastings
 12 restricts registration to student organizations that comply with Hastings’ Policies and
 13 Regulations Applying to College Activities. (*See* Stip. Facts, ¶ 12.) Hastings also requires
 14 student organizations to comply with the Nondiscrimination Policy and to open their
 15 membership to all students. (*Id.* at ¶¶ 14, 17.) Moreover, registration is restricted to non-
 16 commercial student groups. (*Id.*, Ex. B at 62.) Finally, the Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit
 17 have held that where a college or university creates a fund available for student organizations, as
 18 Hastings has done here, it creates a limited public forum. *See Board of Regents of the Univ. of*
 19 *Wisconsin Sys. v. Southworth*, 529 U.S. 217, 229-30 (2000); *Rounds v. Oregon State Bd. of*
 20 *Higher Educ.*, 166 F.3d 1032, 1039 (9th Cir. 1999); *see also Rosenberger v. Rector & Visitors*
 21 *of the Univ. of Virginia*, 515 U.S. 819, 829-31 (1995) (applying standards applicable to limited
 22 public forums to restrictions on student activity fund available for student groups that, among
 23 other things, comply with certain procedural requirements). Therefore, the Court concludes that

24
 25 ³ CLS argues that the contours between the terms “designated public forum” and
 26 “limited public forum” have not always been clear and that the terms may be used
 27 interchangeably, but the Ninth Circuit has made clear that in this circuit, these terms have
 28 different meanings. *See Hopper v. City of Pasco*, 241 F.3d 1067, 1074 (9th Cir. 2001). As
 the *Hopper* court explained “a limited public forum is a sub-category of a designated public
 forum that the government has intentionally opened up to certain groups or certain topics. ...
 In a limited public forum, restrictions that are viewpoint neutral and reasonable in light of the
 purpose served by the forum are permissible.” *Id.* at 1074-75 (quotations and citations
 omitted).

1 Hastings created a limited public forum and thus, the restrictions on access to this forum are
2 permissible so long as they are viewpoint-neutral and reasonable.

3 **i. Viewpoint Neutrality.**

4 Viewpoint discrimination occurs when the government targets “particular views taken by
5 speakers on a subject.” *Rosenberger*, 515 U.S. at 829. If the rationale for the restriction on
6 expressive activity is the “specific motivating ideology or the opinion or perspective of the
7 speaker,” then the government has engaged in viewpoint discrimination. *Id.*

8 In *Rosenberger*, student groups at the University of Virginia were eligible to submit bills
9 for reimbursement if they became a “Contracted Independent Organization” (“CIO”). *Id.* at 823.
10 An organization entitled Wide Awake Productions (“Wide Awake”) met all the requirements to
11 be qualified to become a CIO and receive reimbursements. *Id.* at 825. Wide Awake was
12 formed by a group of students to, among other things, “publish a magazine of philosophical and
13 religious expression.” *Id.* Although Wide Awake was given CIO status, the university denied
14 Wide Awake’s request to be reimbursed for the cost of printing its publication “for the sole
15 reason that their student paper ‘primarily promotes or manifests a particular belie[f] in or about
16 a deity or an ultimate reality.’” *Id.* at 822-23, 827. The Court concluded that the university had
17 engaged in viewpoint discrimination because it excluded student journalistic efforts with a
18 religious editorial viewpoint. *Id.* at 831. In fact, the university expressly justified denying funds
19 for Wide Awake’s publication on the ground that its contents revealed an “avowed religious
20 perspective.” *Id.* at 832.

21 The factual situations presented by *Widmar v. Vincent*, 454 U.S. 263 (1981), *Lambs*
22 *Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School*, 508 U.S. 384 (1993), and *Good News Club v.*
23 *Milford Center School*, 533 U.S. 98 (2001), provide other clear examples of viewpoint
24 discrimination. In *Widmar*, the university excluded student groups and speakers “based on their
25 desire to use a generally open forum to engage in religious worship and discussion.” *Widmar*,
26 454 U.S. at 269 (emphasis added). In *Lambs Chapel*, the evidence in the record demonstrated
27 that the school district excluded a particular film series *because* the presentation would have
28 been from a religious perspective. *Lambs Chapel*, 508 U.S. at 393-94. In *Good News Club*, the

1 school district excluded a club “based on its religious nature.” *Good News Club*, 533 U.S. at
2 107.

3 In contrast here, Hastings has not excluded CLS *because* it is a religious group but rather
4 because it refuses to comply with the prerequisites imposed on all student organizations. To
5 become a registered student group, Hastings requires all student groups to comply with
6 Hastings’ Policies and Regulations Applying to College Activities, including the
7 Nondiscrimination Policy. (See Stip. Facts, ¶¶ 12, 14, 17.) Pursuant to the Nondiscrimination
8 Policy, a student organization cannot exclude interested students from participating on the basis
9 of, among other things, religion or sexual orientation. The student groups must remain open to
10 all students who want to join or participate. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 15, 17.)

11 Courts have found nondiscrimination statutes akin to Hastings’ Nondiscrimination
12 Policy to be viewpoint neutral. *See Roberts*, 468 U.S. at 615 (holding that a state law
13 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of “race, color, creed, religion, disability, national origin
14 or sex” did “not distinguish between prohibited and permitted activity on the basis of
15 viewpoint”); *see also Board of Dirs. of Rotary Int’l v. Rotary Club of Duarte*, 481 U.S. 537, 549
16 (1987); *Boy Scouts of Am. v. Wyman*, 335 F.3d 80, 94 (2d Cir. 2003). Notably, in *Roberts*, the
17 Court found that the state statute had not been applied “for the purpose of hampering the
18 organization’s ability to express its view.” *Roberts*, 468 U.S. at 615. Rather, the statute
19 “reflect[ed] the State’s strong historical commitment to eliminating discrimination and assuring
20 its citizens equal access to publicly available goods and services.” *Id.*

21 In *Rotary Club of Duarte*, similar to *Roberts*, a local chapter of a national organization
22 admitted women as members in violation of the national organization’s requirements. As a
23 result, the national organization revoked the local chapter’s charter. *Duarte*, 481 U.S. at 541. In
24 evaluating whether enforcing a statute against the national organization which barred
25 discrimination in public accommodations violated the First Amendment rights of the
26 organization’s members, the Court held that the state statute made “no distinctions on the basis
27 of the organization’s viewpoint.” *Id.* at 549.

1 In *Wyman*, the Connecticut State Employee Campaign Committee denied the
 2 application of a local chapter of the Boy Scouts of America to participate in the state's
 3 workplace charitable contribution campaign. *Wyman*, 335 F.3d at 83. The decision to exclude
 4 the Boy Scout chapter was based on a ruling by a state commission that the Boy Scout's policy
 5 of excluding homosexuals from membership and employment opportunities violated
 6 Connecticut's Gay Rights Law. *Id.* at 83. The Second Circuit concluded that the state anti-
 7 discrimination statute "prohibits discriminatory membership and employment policies not
 8 because of the viewpoints such policies express, but because of the immediate harms – like
 9 denial of concrete economic and social benefits – such discrimination causes homosexuals." *Id.*
 10 at 94.

11 CLS's arguments regarding viewpoint discrimination are unavailing. CLS contends that
 12 Hastings engages in viewpoint discrimination because it prohibits CLS from using religion as a
 13 criteria for selecting members and officers. (CLS Mot. at 16.) CLS is confusing the appropriate
 14 analysis by focusing on the reasons CLS is acting, as opposed to the reasons underlying
 15 Hastings' Nondiscrimination Policy. CLS also asserts that, as a religious group, it is unfairly
 16 disadvantaged. It argues that while other organizations, such as sports teams or political groups,
 17 may exclude students based on their athletic ability or political beliefs, CLS may not exclude the
 18 students of its choice. (*Id.*) Again, CLS is confusing the analysis by focusing on the effect and
 19 the reason *CLS* is acting, as opposed to the reasons underlying *Hastings'* conduct. Moreover,
 20 the fact that a neutral policy may affect a group with a certain perspective or belief system does
 21 not render the policy viewpoint based. *Madsen v. Women's Health Ctr.*, 512 U.S. 753, 763
 22 (1994). In *Madsen*, a group of anti-abortion protestors challenged an injunction which
 23 prohibited them from demonstrating in certain places and in particular ways outside of a health
 24 clinic that performed abortions. The Court rejected the protestors' argument that the injunction
 25 was viewpoint-based:

26 That petitioners all share the same viewpoint regarding abortion does not in itself
 27 demonstrate that some invidious content- or viewpoint-based purpose motivated the
 28 issuance of the order. It suggests only that those in the group *whose conduct*
 violated the court's order happen to share the same opinion regarding abortions
 being performed at the clinic. In short, the fact that the injunction covered people

1 with a particular viewpoint does not itself render the injunction content or viewpoint
2 based.

3 *Id.* (emphasis in original). Rather, the focus of the Court's inquiry for determining neutrality is
4 government's purpose. *Id.*; see also *Menotti v. City of Seattle*, 409 F.3d 1113, 1129 (9th Cir.
5 2005) (holding that the fact that an injunction barring access near the World Trade Organization
6 conference "predominantly affected protestors with anti-WTO views did not render it content
7 based").

8 Finally, in its reply brief, CLS argues that Hastings "refuses to recognize the CLS
9 chapter because it takes a decidedly Christian point of view ... on issues of human sexuality and
10 gender identity." (CLS Reply at 17.) However, there is no evidence in the record to support
11 CLS's argument that Hastings will not allow CLS to become a recognized student organization
12 because of CLS's religious perspective. In fact, the evidence in the record demonstrates
13 otherwise. For the ten years preceding this lawsuit, a predecessor of CLS existed as a registered
14 student organization at Hastings. (Joint Stip, ¶ 22.) The predecessor organization used the
15 name of "Hastings Christian Legal Society" and "Hastings Christian Fellowship." (*Id.*) From
16 the 1994-1995 academic year through the 2001-2002 academic year, the predecessor
17 organization used the same set of bylaws, which appear to be an old version of the bylaws sent
18 to student chapters by the National Christian Legal Society. (*Id.*, ¶ 23.) It was not until the
19 2004-2005 academic year, when it became clear that CLS would not comply with the
20 Nondiscrimination Policy and Hastings' requirement that registered student organizations be
21 open to all interested students that Hastings' withdrew CLS's recognition. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 33-35, 39-
22 41.)

23 Thus, the Court concludes that the Nondiscrimination Policy, and Hastings' enforcement
24 of this policy, is viewpoint neutral.

25 **ii. Reasonableness.**

26 In addition to being viewpoint neutral, restrictions on access to a limited public forum
27 must be reasonable. "The reasonableness of a governmental restriction limiting access to a
28 nonpublic forum must be assessed 'in light of the purpose of the forum and all of the

1 surrounding circumstances.” *Cogswell v. City of Seattle*, 347 F.3d 809, 817 (9th Cir. 2003)
 2 (quoting *Cornelius v. NAACP Legal Def. and Educ. Fund, Inc.*, 473 U.S. 788, 809 (1985)).
 3 “The reasonableness analysis emphasizes the consistency of the limitation in the context of the
 4 forum’s intended purpose.” *Id.* (citing *DiLoreto*, 196 F.3d at 967).

5 In evaluating the reasonableness of Hastings’ restrictions, the Court notes that “a
 6 university differs in significant respects from public forums such as streets or parks or even
 7 municipal theaters. A university’s mission is education, and decisions of [the Supreme Court]
 8 have never denied a university’s authority to impose reasonable regulations compatible with that
 9 mission upon the use of its campus and facilities.” *Widmar*, 454 U.S. at 268 n.5. Universities
 10 have a “right to exclude even First Amendment activities that violate reasonable campus rules or
 11 substantially interfere with the opportunity of other students to obtain an education.” *Id.* at 277.

12 Hastings’ purpose in recognizing and funding student organizations is to further
 13 students’ education and participation in the law school environment and to foster students’
 14 interests and connections with their fellow students. Moreover, as a public institution, Hastings
 15 is subject to federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination. To promote the purpose of this
 16 forum and to comply with the spirit of the laws prohibiting discrimination, Hastings requires
 17 that student groups be open to all interested students, without discrimination on the basis of any
 18 protected status. (Stip. Facts, ¶¶ 12, 14, 15, 17.) The Court concludes that Hastings’
 19 requirement of compliance with its Nondiscrimination Policy is a reasonable regulation that is
 20 consistent with and furthers its educational purpose. Accordingly, even if Hastings’
 21 Nondiscrimination Policy is considered a regulation of speech, Hastings’ enforcement of this
 22 policy did not infringe upon CLS’s First Amendment rights of free speech.

23 2. First Amendment: Expressive Association.

24 Although not expressly included in the First Amendment, the Supreme Court has
 25 recognized the freedom of expressive association as an right implicit in this amendment. As the
 26 Supreme Court explained in *Roberts*:

27 [a]n individual’s freedom to speak, to worship, and to petition the government for
 28 the redress of grievances could not be vigorously protected from interference by the
 State unless a correlative freedom to engage in group effort toward those ends were
 not also guaranteed. ... Consequently, [the Supreme Court has] long understood as

implicit in the right to engage in activities protected by the First Amendment a corresponding right to associate with others in pursuit of a wide variety of political, social, economic, educational, religious, and cultural ends.

Roberts, 468 U.S. at 622; *see also Boy Scouts v. Dale*, 530 U.S. 640, 647-48 (2000). The freedom of association may be unconstitutionally burdened in several different ways. For example, the “government may seek to impose penalties or withhold benefits from individuals because of their membership in a disfavored group, ... it may attempt to require disclosure of the fact of membership in a group seeking anonymity, ... and it may try to interfere with the internal organization or affairs of the group.” *Roberts*, 468 U.S. at 622-23 (internal citations omitted).

CLS argues that its right to expressive association has been infringed. It is undisputed that CLS is being denied the right to official recognition by Hastings and that it is being denied access to particular areas of the campus and some avenues of communicating with its members and other students. What is disputed is the legal and practical effect of these limitations.

First, it is important to note what this case is not about. Although CLS relies heavily on *Dale*⁴ and *Roberts*, these cases are inapplicable. *Dale* stands for the proposition that “forced inclusion of an unwanted person in a group infringes on the groups’s freedom of expressive association if the presence of that person affects in a significant way the group’s ability to advocate public or private viewpoints.” *Dale*, 530 U.S. at 649. Similarly, the Court in *Roberts* addressed the validity of forcing a group to accept members it did not desire. *Roberts*, 468 U.S. at 623. Here, CLS is not being forced, as a private entity, to include certain members or officers. *See Wyman*, 335 F.3d at 91 (finding *Dale* inapplicable because the conditioned exclusion of organization from a particular forum did not rise to the level of compulsive membership); *see also Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity, Inc. v. Univ. of Pittsburgh*, 229 F.3d 435, 445-46 (3d Cir. 2000) (upholding university’s withdrawal of recognition of a fraternity that

⁴ In *Dale*, the Boy Scouts, a private organization, that “engage[s] in instilling a system of values in young people,” revoked the adult membership of James Dale when it learned that he was “an avowed homosexual and gay rights activist.” *Dale*, 530 U.S. at 643. The Supreme Court held that applying New Jersey’s public accommodations law to require the Boy Scouts to readmit Dale as a scout in a leadership position violated the Boy Scout’s right of expressive association. *Id.* The Court found that Dale’s presence in a leadership position in the Boy Scouts would “force the organization to send a message, both to the youth members and the world, that the Boy Scouts accepts homosexual conduct as a legitimate form of behavior.” *Id.* at 653.

1 violated campus rules on drug use and distinguishing *Dale* and *Roberts* because those cases
2 involved state laws mandating that groups accept members with whom the groups did not want
3 to associate).

4 In *Wyman*, a state committee refused to allow a local chapter of the Boy Scouts to
5 participate in the state's charitable contribution campaign because the Boy Scouts excluded gays
6 and lesbians from employment and membership positions in violation of a state law prohibiting
7 discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Boy Scouts argued that "by conditioning
8 its participation in the Campaign on a change in its membership policies, the defendants
9 violated the [Boy Scout's] constitutional right to expressive association." *Wyman*, 335 F.3d at
10 88. The court rejected the Boy Scouts' argument that *Dale* determined the resolution of its
11 claims, reasoning that "*Dale* considered [the state's] attempt to *require* the Boy Scouts to admit
12 a person who, the Supreme Court found, would compromise the Boy Scout's message. Not
13 surprisingly, the Supreme Court held that such state compulsion 'directly and immediately
14 affects ... associational rights that enjoy *First Amendment* protection' and imposes a 'serious
15 burden' on them." *Id.* (quoting *Dale*, 530 U.S. at 658-59) (emphasis in original). In contrast to
16 *Dale*, the court found the effect of state's refusal to allow the Boy Scouts to participate in the
17 campaign was "neither direct nor immediate, since its conditioned exclusion does not rise to the
18 level of compulsion." *Id.*

19 In a case recently decided by the California Supreme Court, the Court rejected an
20 organization's contention that its speech or associational rights were infringed by a requirement
21 that it agree not to discriminate on the basis of religion and sexual orientation as a condition to
22 receiving a city subsidy for a berth at the marina. *Evans*, 40 Cal. Rptr. 3d at 211. The Court
23 reasoned that in adopting a nondiscrimination resolution and applying it to an organization, the
24 city

25 did not purport to prohibit the [organization] from operating in a discriminatory
26 manner; it simply "refused to fund such activities out of the public fisc." ... To the
27 extent the [organization] objected to compliance with the [nondiscrimination
28 resolution], the organization ... was free to terminate its participation in the free
berth program and thus avoid the requirement of the nondiscrimination provision;
"a legislature's decision not to subsidize the exercise of a fundamental right does not
infringe the right."

1 *Id.* at 213 (quoting *Rust v. Sullivant*, 500 U.S. 173, 198 (1991) and *Regan v. Taxation With*
2 *Representation of Wash.*, 461 U.S. 540, 549 (1983)).

3 Similar to *Wyman* and *Evans*, Hastings is not directly ordering CLS to admit certain
4 students. Rather, Hastings has merely placed conditions on using aspects of its campus as a
5 forum and providing subsidies to organizations. If CLS wishes to participate in the forum and
6 be eligible to receive funds, it must comply with Hastings' Nondiscrimination Policy. If not,
7 CLS is "free to terminate its participation ... and thus avoid the requirement of the
8 nondiscrimination provision." See *Evans*, 40 Cal. Rptr. 3d at 213. CLS may continue to meet
9 as the group of its choice on campus, excluding any students they wish, and may continue to
10 communicate its beliefs as it did all through the 2004-2005 academic year. Therefore, *Dale* and
11 *Roberts* are inapplicable here.

12 **a. Analysis Pursuant to *Healy v. James*.**

13 The Supreme Court's analysis in *Healy v. James*, 408 U.S. 169 (1972), is the most
14 instructive case with respect to CLS's claim of expressive association. In *Healy*, the president
15 of a state college refused to grant a student organization official recognition because "he found
16 the organization's philosophy was antithetical to the school's policies." *Id.* at 174. The Court
17 held that denying official recognition to student organizations, *without justification*, burdens or
18 abridges students' right to associate to further their personal beliefs. *Id.* at 181. However, the
19 Court noted that the college could restrict students' associational rights if it imposed the
20 restrictions for a reason "directed at the organization's activities, rather than its philosophy" and
21 such reason was factually supported by the record. *Id.* at 188; *see also Pi Lambda Phi*
22 *Fraternity*, 229 F.3d at 445 (commenting that *Healy* specifically contemplated a situation in
23 which a university acts out of non-ideological reasons to restrict a group's non-expressive
24 activity, even when those actions would have an effect on expressive activity); *Tacyne v. City*
25 *of Philadelphia*, 687 F.2d 793, 799 (3d Cir. 1982) (citing *Healy* for the proposition that an
26 individual's right of association may be limited by valid, content-neutral time, place and manner
27 restrictions).
28

i. **Under *Healy*, Hastings May Impose Campus Restrictions if Reasons for Regulating Student Organizations Passes the *O'Brien* Test.**

The Court in *Healy* indicated that the appropriate measure for evaluating whether justifications for a restriction on student organizations would be sufficient to pass constitutional muster is the *O'Brien* test – the test for determining when government regulation of conduct violates First Amendment speech protections. *Healy*, 408 U.S. at 189 n.20. Moreover, the Court specifically noted that schools may impose a requirement “that a group seeking official recognition affirm in advance its willingness to adhere to reasonable campus law. Such a requirement does not impose an impermissible condition on the students’ associational rights.” *Id.* at 193. The Court concluded “that the benefits of participation in the internal life of the college community may be denied to any group that reserves the right to violate any valid campus rules with which it disagrees.” *Id.* at 193-94; *see also Evans*, 40 Cal. Rptr. 3d at 217-19 (applying *Healy* to find an organization’s refusal to confirm it would comply with a nondiscrimination resolution justified city’s withdrawal of a subsidy to the organization).

As discussed above, Hastings has denied CLS official recognition based on CLS’s conduct – its refusal to comply with Hastings’ Nondiscrimination Policy – not because of CLS’s philosophies or beliefs. Thus, in accordance with the Supreme Court’s analysis in *Healy*, this Court must evaluate whether Hastings’ enforcement of its Nondiscrimination Policy against CLS unconstitutionally infringes CLS’s right of expressive association pursuant to the test set forth in *O’Brien*, *i.e.*, whether the Nondiscrimination Policy is within the state’s constitutional power, the policy furthers an important or substantial government interest that is unrelated to the suppression of expression, and the incidental restriction on the alleged First Amendment freedoms is no greater than is essential to the furtherance of that interest. *See O’Brien*, 391 U.S. at 377. This Court has already found that Hastings’ enforcement of its Nondiscrimination Policy passes constitutional muster under the *O’Brien* test.

In the context of CLS’s claim of infringement of its associational rights, it is also significant that while CLS was denied the use of the Hastings logo, eligibility for funds, the use of certain bulletin boards, eligibility for a Hastings organization email address, and eligibility to

1 send out mass emails through the Associated Students of the University of California at
 2 Hastings, the ability to place announcements in a weekly newsletter, and the ability to
 3 participate in the annual student organizations faire, CLS was not prohibited from meeting on
 4 campus. (Joint Stip, ¶¶ 9, 10, 62.) In fact, CLS was permitted to use campus facilities to meet
 5 and its members were permitted to communicate amongst themselves and with other students.
 6 (*Id.*, ¶¶ 10, 58.) As a non-registered group, CLS still had access to bulletin boards and chalk
 7 boards on campus to make announcements. (Joint Stip, ¶ 11.) Such evidence further
 8 demonstrates that Hastings' incidental restriction on CLS's alleged First Amendment freedoms
 9 was no greater than necessary. *See O'Brien*, 391 U.S. at 377 (holding that incidental restriction
 10 on alleged First Amendment freedoms must be no greater than necessary to the furtherance of an
 11 important governmental interest unrelated to the suppression of expression). Therefore,
 12 according to the analysis required by *Healy* and *O'Brien*, Hastings does not unconstitutionally
 13 infringe on CLS's associational rights.

14
 15 **ii. Under *Healy*, Denying Recognition to Student Organizations
 Must be Justified Sufficiently.**

16 Alternatively, even assuming *arguendo* *O'Brien* is not the appropriate test, it is
 17 important to note that *Healy* merely held that denying official recognition to student
 18 organizations, *without justification*, burdens or abridges students' right to associate to further
 19 their personal beliefs. *See Healy*, 408 U.S. at 181. In determining whether a school's reason for
 20 denying recognition provides sufficient justification, the Court examined both whether the
 21 reason was directed at the organization's activities or philosophies and the practical impact
 22 nonrecognition had on the students' ability to meet as a group and communicate. *Id.* at 184, 188
 23 ("We are not free to disregard the practical realities."); *see also Gay Students Org. of Univ. of*
 24 *New Hampshire v. Bonner*, 509 F.2d 652, 658-59 (1st Cir. 1974) (noting that "the Court's
 25 analysis in *Healy* focused not on the technical point of recognition or nonrecognition, but on the
 26 practical realities of human interaction. ... The ultimate issue at which inquiry must be directed
 27 is the effect which a regulation has on organizational and associational activity, not the isolated
 28 and for the most part irrelevant issue of recognition per se.").

1 The Court in *Healy* found that the “primary impediment to free association flowing from
2 nonrecognition [was] the denial of use of campus facilities for meetings and other appropriate
3 purposes.” *Healy*, 408 U.S. at 181. Most importantly, the organization was barred from using
4 any campus facilities to hold meetings. *Id.* at 176. When the students attempted to meet a
5 coffee shop on campus, they were disbanded and informed that they could not meet anywhere
6 on college property as a group. *Id.* Students in the group were not allowed to place
7 announcements regarding meetings, rallies or other activities in the student newspaper or on the
8 campus bulletin boards. The students were not provided any opportunity to communicate with
9 each other or other students on campus. *Id.* at 182-83. Unremarkably, the Court found that “[i]f
10 an organization is to remain a viable entity in a campus community..., it must possess the means
11 of communicating with [other] students.” *Id.* at 181. In light of these circumstances, the Court
12 found that “[d]enial of official recognition posed serious problems for the organization’s
13 existence and growth” and that these impediments were not insubstantial. *Id.* at 177, 182.
14 Nevertheless, despite these substantial impediments, the Court remanded the matter for
15 consideration of whether the students were willing to abide by reasonable campus rules and
16 regulations, which, if they were not, would justify the denial of recognition. *Id.* at 194.

17 Here, in contrast to *Healy*, it is undisputed that despite Hastings’ refusal to grant CLS
18 recognized status, the group continued to meet and hold activities throughout the 2004-2005
19 academic year. (Joint Stip., ¶¶ 44, 48.) The record demonstrates that CLS’s efforts at recruiting
20 members and attendees were not hampered by the denial of recognition. Throughout the 2004-
21 2005 academic year, nine to fifteen students regularly attended CLS meetings and activities.
22 (*Id.*, ¶ 48.) There is no evidence that CLS considered this a small group or that it was smaller
23 than when the group met during the previous ten years as a recognized student group. In fact,
24 during the prior academic year, when the predecessor to CLS met as a recognized student group,
25 fewer students regularly attended the meetings and events. (*Id.*, ¶ 26: “During the 2003-2004
26 academic year [a]pproximately five (5) to seven (7) students attended ... meetings and
27 events.”) Moreover, there is no evidence that the restrictions to certain forms of communication
28 at Hastings, such as through the Law School newsletter, hindered CLS’s ability to communicate

1 with other students. The president of CLS maintained a Yahoo! group for all members and
 2 attendees and communicated information relating to CLS's activities to them on this group.
 3 (Declaration of Stephen Aden ("Aden Decl."), Ex. B at 44.) Furthermore, even though CLS was
 4 not a recognized student organization at Hastings, Hastings still provided access to bulletin and
 5 chalk boards to make announcements, allowed CLS to meet on campus as an organization, and
 6 offered CLS use of Hastings' rooms and audio-visual equipment for such meetings and
 7 activities. (Joint Stip., ¶¶ 10, 11, 58, 61, Ex. H.)⁵ Thus, the Court finds that Hastings' denial of
 8 official recognition was not a substantial impediment to CLS's ability to meet and communicate
 9 as a group. In light of the fact that Hastings' reason for denying recognition was not directed at
 10 CLS's philosophies, the Court concludes that Hastings' denial of recognition was justified and
 11 thus does not unconstitutionally infringe CLS's members' right of expressive association. *See*
 12 *Healy*, 408 U.S. at 181.

13 iii. Denial of Recognition is Not Per Se Unconstitutional.

14 CLS's reliance on the cases cited in its reply brief to demonstrate the denial of
 15 recognition is a per se unconstitutional infringement of its members' associational rights under
 16 *Healy* is misplaced. (CLS's Reply at 7.) The courts in *Gay and Lesbian Students Ass'n v.*
 17 *Gohn*, 850 F.2d 361 (8th Cir. 1988), *Gay Alliance of Students v. Matthews*, 544 F.2d 162 (4th
 18 Cir. 1976), *Gay Students Org.*, 509 F.2d 652, and *American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia,*
 19 *Inc. v. Radford College*, 315 F. Supp. 893 (W.D. Va. 1970), each made explicit findings that the
 20 that the colleges or universities refused to grant recognition to these student organizations
 21 *because* of the organizations' beliefs or views.

22 In *Gay and Lesbian Students*, the university refused to provide the student group funds,
 23 which the group sought to support showing two films and holding a panel discussion. *Gay and*
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25 ⁵ CLS argues that its access to such space and forms of communication are at
 26 Hastings' discretion and thus that Hastings could decide at any point to withdraw such
 27 access. (CLS Mot. at 13.) On the record before the Court, CLS is allowed access to facilities
 28 and certain forms of communication at Hastings. Even if CLS has not taken full advantage
 of the access, it is undisputed that it was made available to the group. CLS's claim regarding
 what Hastings may do in the future is not yet ripe. If circumstances change, and CLS
 believes that under the new circumstances, CLS's constitutional rights are being infringed,
 CLS may challenge the new conduct and conditions at that time.

1 *Lesbian Students*, 850 F.2d at 363. The court found that the record was “replete” with evidence
2 that the university’s decision to deny funds was based on viewpoint discrimination. *Id.* at 366.
3 The evidence included the following statement from one of the student senators voting to deny
4 funding: “This is a group that supports gay and lesbian homosexuality. We cannot use state
5 money to support a homosexual group.” *Id.* at 363. Moreover, the court noted the pressure
6 university officials received from state legislators not to fund the group or “to allow in any way
7 the dissemination of opinions tolerant toward homosexuals.” *Id.* at 367. Thus, the court
8 concluded that the group was improperly denied funds “because of the views it espoused.” *Id.*
9 Accordingly, the court found the denial unconstitutionally infringed the students’ First
10 Amendment rights.

11 In *Gay Alliance of Students*, the university refused to grant the group’s application to
12 become a recognized student group because the university feared granting recognition would
13 increase the number of students who might join, would harm students affiliated with a
14 “homosexual activist organization,” and would increase the opportunity for “homosexual
15 contacts.” *Gay Alliance of Students*, 544 F.2d at 165-66. Thus, the court found that the
16 university targeted the group because of the content of the message it sought to convey.
17 Accordingly, the court held that the university had to demonstrate its refusal to recognize the
18 group was “tailored to serve a substantial governmental interest,” and that it failed to do so. *Id.*

19 In *Gay Students Organization*, the student group was not allowed to sponsor any social
20 functions. *Gay Students Org.*, 509 F.2d at 654. The university’s prohibition on any social
21 functions was triggered by the distribution of what the university characterized as “‘extremist’
22 homosexual publications” at an event sponsored by the group. *Id.* Thus, the court found that
23 the university’s prohibition was unconstitutional under the *O’Brien* test because it was content-
24 related. *Id.* at 662 (“[T]he curtailing of expression which they find abhorrent or offensive
25 cannot provide the important governmental interest upon which impairment of First
26 Amendment freedoms must be predicated.”).

27 Finally, in *American Civil Liberties Union*, the college did not grant the organization
28 recognition because it felt the “role and purpose of the American Civil Liberties Union” lay

1 outside of the school's scope and objectives. *American Civil Liberties Union*, 315 F. Supp. at
 2 895. The court noted that the school did not define what the objectives of the school were and
 3 expressed doubt that the administration and faculty could reach agreement as to what specific
 4 objectives the institution was dedicated. *Id.* at 898. Notably, the college recognized the Young
 5 Republican Club and Young Democratic Club. The court found it inconsistent to claim these
 6 political clubs were within the school's objectives, but not the ACLU. *Id.* at 898-99. Thus, the
 7 court held the denial of recognition violated the First Amendment. *Id.*

8 In contrast here, as noted above, Hastings did not withhold recognition of CLS because
 9 of CLS's views, but because CLS refused to comply with the Nondiscrimination Policy. Thus,
 10 *Gay and Lesbian Students, Gay Alliance of Students, Gay Students Organization, and American*
 11 *Civil Liberties Union of Virginia* do not support a finding that CLS's right to expressive
 12 association has been unconstitutionally fringed.

13 **b. Analysis Pursuant to *Dale* and *Roberts*.**

14 Even assuming *arguendo* that *Roberts* and *Dale* were applicable to CLS's expressive
 15 association claim, and this Court finds they are not, the holding of these cases do not support a
 16 finding that Hastings' denial of recognition was unconstitutional. Pursuant to *Dale*, courts apply
 17 a three-part test to determine whether the right of expressive association has been violated.
 18 *Dale*, 530 U.S. at 648-49. First, an organization must engage in expressive association.
 19 Second, the state action must significantly affect the group's ability to advocate its viewpoints.
 20 Third, the Court must determine if the state's interest justifies the infringement on the right to
 21 expressive association. *Id.* Although not as explicit, the Court in *Roberts* follows a similar
 22 analysis. *Roberts*, 468 U.S. at 622-28.

23 **i. First Prong: Organization Engages in Expressive Association.**

24 To bring an expressive association claim, CLS "must engage in some form of
 25 expression, whether it be public or private." *Dale*, 530 U.S. at 549. Hastings does not dispute
 26 that CLS engages in expressive association. (Hastings Mot. at 16.) Therefore, the Court will
 27 assume for purposes of these motions that CLS engages in expressive association.
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ii. Second Prong: Ability to Advocate Viewpoints Significantly Affected.

Next, the Court must determine whether Hastings' denial of recognition significantly affect CLS's ability to advocate its viewpoints. *Dale*, 530 U.S. at 650; *Roberts*, 468 U.S. at 626-28. In *Roberts*, the Court held that a regulation that forces a group to accept members it does not desire is a clear intrusion into the internal structure or affairs of the organization. *Roberts*, 468 U.S. at 623 ("Such a regulation may impair the ability of the original members to express only those views that brought them together. ... Freedom of association plainly presupposes a freedom not to associate."); *see also Dale*, 530 U.S. at 648 ("The forced inclusion of an unwanted person in a group infringes the group's freedom of expressive association if the presence of that person affects in a significant way the group's ability to advocate public or private viewpoints."). However, here, Hastings is not ordering CLS to admit certain members, regardless of where it meets. Rather, Hastings is merely imposing a condition of participation in certain aspects of the forum on campus. *See Evans*, 40 Cal. Rptr. 3d at 213 (noting that to the extent an organization objected to compliance with a nondiscrimination policy as a condition of receiving a city subsidy, the organization was free to terminate its participation in the program and thus avoid the requirements of the nondiscrimination provision). Moreover, even assuming *arguendo* that Hastings' condition for participation could be viewed as requiring CLS to admit gay, lesbian, and non-Christian students, CLS has not demonstrated that its ability to express its views would be significantly impaired by complying with such a requirement.

In *Dale*, the Court found that the Boy Scouts's general mission was to instill values in young people, including being "morally straight." *Dale*, 530 U.S. at 649-50. The Boy Scouts sought to instill these values by having its adult leaders spend time with the youth members. During the time spent together, scoutmasters and assistant scoutmasters were tasked with inculcating the youth members with the Boy Scouts' values, both expressly and by example. *Id.* at 649-50. The Court further found that the Boy Scouts sincerely believed that "homosexual conduct [was] not morally straight" and did "not want to promote homosexual conduct as a legitimate form of behavior." *Id.* at 651. Although the Court stated that an association's

1 assertions regarding the nature of its expression and its view of what would impair its
2 expression is owed deference, the Court examined the evidence on these points and did not
3 blindly accept the Boy Scouts' arguments. *Id.* at 651-56. Moreover, the Court expressly noted
4 that the group engaged in expressive association could not "erect a shield against
5 antidiscrimination laws simply by asserting that mere acceptance of a member from a particular
6 group would impair its message." *Id.* at 653; *see also Rumsfeld*, 126 S.Ct. at 1312-13 (rejecting
7 the groups' argument that providing access to military recruiters would impair their own
8 expression merely because they *said* it would and citing *Dale* for the proposition that "a speaker
9 cannot erect a shield against laws requiring access simply by asserting that mere association
10 would impair its message") (internal quotations omitted).

11 In determining whether admitting Dale would significantly impair the Boy Scouts'
12 message, the Court reasoned that Dale was "one of a group of gay Scouts who have become
13 leaders in their community and are open and honest about their sexual orientation. ... Dale was
14 copresident of a gay and lesbian organization at college and remains a gay rights activist." *Dale*,
15 530 U.S. at 653. In light of these facts, the Court found that Dale's presence in a leadership
16 position in the Boy Scouts would "force the organization to send a message, both to the youth
17 members and the world, that the Boy Scouts accepts homosexual conduct as a legitimate form
18 of behavior." *Id.* Significantly, the Court found *Hurley* illustrative of this point and noted that
19 in *Hurley* "the parade organizers did not wish to exclude the GLIB members because of their
20 sexual orientation, but because they wanted to march behind a GLIB banner[]" and thus would
21 force the parade organizers to send a message they did not want to propound. *Id.* at 653-54
22 (citing *Hurley*, 515 U.S. at 574-75.)

23 The broad class of students CLS seeks to exclude significantly differs from the Boy
24 Scouts' conduct in *Dale*. CLS does not confine its desired discrimination to students who are
25 open and honest about being gay, lesbian, or non-orthodox Christian, let alone leaders on
26 campus advocating for gay rights or non-Christian faiths. Rather, CLS seeks to exclude *all*
27 lesbian, gay, bisexual or non-orthodox Christian students. *See Dale*, 530 U.S. at 653 (finding
28 that because Dale was open and honest about his sexual orientation and was a gay rights activist,

1 his presence would force the Boy Scouts to send a message to its youth members and the world
2 regarding homosexuality); *see also Hurley*, 515 U.S. at 572 (noting that the parade organizers
3 disclaimed any intent to exclude gay, lesbian or bisexual individuals from participating
4 generally, but rather, sought to a group from marching behind a particular banner).

5 Moreover, CLS does not demonstrate how admitting lesbian, gay, bisexual or non-
6 orthodox Christian students would impair its mission. Significantly, unlike the Boy Scouts in
7 *Dale*, CLS has not submitted any evidence demonstrating that teaching certain values to other
8 students is part of the organization's mission or purpose, or that it seeks to do so by example,
9 such that the mere presence of someone who does not fully comply with the prescribed code of
10 conduct would force CLS to send a message contrary to its mission. According to CLS, its
11 mission is "to maintain a vibrant Christian Law Fellowship on the School's campus which
12 enables its members, individually and as a group, to love the Lord with their whole
13 beings—hearts, souls, and minds—and to love their neighbors as themselves." (Joint Stip., Ex. E.)

14 CLS now argues that it "seeks to affirm and encourage certain values in its members"
15 and that its officers "serve as role models to the voting members and attendees," but the
16 evidence it cites does not support these assertions. (CLS Mot. at 10, *citing* Joint Stip., ¶ 33;
17 CLS Reply at 2, 8, *citing* Joint Stip., Ex. E at 2.) Paragraph 33 of the Joint Stipulation merely
18 states that CLS's bylaws require all members and officers to sign the Statement of Faith and sets
19 forth the substance of the Statement of Faith. (Joint Stip., ¶ 33.) Exhibit E to the Joint
20 Stipulation is CLS's Constitution. The Constitution pronounces a "code of conduct" for officers
21 which provides that officers "must exemplify the highest standards of morality as set forth in
22 Scripture." (*Id.*, Ex. E at 2.) While CLS's members and officers may be instructed to abide by a
23 code of conduct, CLS does not demonstrate how it portrays what the conduct is or who follows
24 this code to the greater community at Hastings. In other words, it is not clear how anyone at
25 Hastings, other than the individual members and officers, would even be aware that CLS's
26 members and officers are living their private lives in accordance with a certain code of conduct.

27 CLS also argues that if it complied with the Nondiscrimination Policy, it would be
28 stripped of its Christian beliefs and cease to exist. (CLS Mot. at 11.) Because officers and

1 members have the authority to elect officers, and to amend the group's bylaws and constitution,
2 and officers lead bible studies, CLS argues that opening up these functions to all students would
3 lead CLS to cease being a vibrant Christian organization. (CLS Mot. at 12.) However, the
4 evidence in the record does not support CLS's argument. For the previous ten years, a
5 predecessor organization to CLS was on campus as a recognized student organization. (Joint
6 Stip., ¶ 22.) The predecessor organization did not exclude openly gay and lesbian students or
7 non-Orthodox Christians. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 25, 27, 28, Exs. C, D.) In fact, during the 2003-2004
8 academic year, one student who was openly lesbian and at least two students who held beliefs
9 inconsistent with what CLS considers to be orthodox Christianity participated in the group's
10 meetings. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 27, 28.) Yet, there is no indication that the participation of such students
11 made the organization any less Christian or hampered the organization's ability to express any
12 particular message or belief. Nor is there any evidence that during those ten years students
13 hostile to CLS's beliefs tried to overtake the organization or alter its views.

14 Even now, when CLS insists on having members sign the Statement of Faith, CLS
15 allows non-members to attend and participate in all meetings and events, including leading
16 prayers. Again, there is no evidence that allowing such participation has made CLS less
17 Christian, or less able to express its views on what it means to be a Christian. Moreover, there
18 is also no indication that any student who is open and honest about being a non-orthodox
19 Christian, gay, lesbian, or bisexual, and a leader in the community on these issues, is seeking to
20 join CLS. In fact, during the 2004-2005 academic year, CLS stipulated that no known gay,
21 lesbian, bisexual or non-Christian student sought to join CLS as a member or officer, or even
22 attended any of its meetings. (Joint Stip. at ¶¶ 50, 54.)

23 Thus, there is no evidence that complying with the Nondiscrimination Policy, and taking
24 the risk that a non-orthodox Christian, gay, lesbian, or bisexual student become a member or
25 officer, and thus, by their presence alone, would impair CLS's ability to convey its beliefs.
26 Accordingly, the Court concludes that requiring CLS to comply with the Nondiscrimination
27 Policy does not significantly affect CLS's ability to advocate its viewpoints.
28

1 **iii. Third Prong: Justification of Infringement.**

2 Because the Court concludes that there is no significant impact on CLS's ability to
 3 express itself, the Court need not address the third prong of the *Dale* test. However, even if
 4 there was some infringement, Hastings' interest in protecting its students from discrimination
 5 provides sufficient justification. In *Roberts*, the Supreme Court found that the state had a
 6 compelling interest in eliminating discrimination and that the state public accommodations laws
 7 at issue served that interest unrelated to the expression of ideas. *Roberts*, 468 U.S. at 624. The
 8 Court in *Roberts* reasoned that:

9 [o]n its face, the [state public accommodations law] does not aim at the suppression
 10 of speech, does not distinguish between prohibited and permitted activity on the
 11 basis of viewpoint, and does not license enforcement authorities to administer the
 12 statute on the basis of such constitutionally impermissible criteria. ... Instead, ... the
 13 Act reflects the State's strong historical commitment to eliminating discrimination
 and assuring its citizens equal access to publicly available goods and services. ...
 That goal, which is unrelated to the suppression of expression, plainly serves
 compelling state interests of the highest order.

14 *Roberts*, 468 U.S. at 623-24. Accordingly, the Court in *Roberts* found that requiring the
 15 organizations to admit women did not violate their members' right of expressive association.
 16 *Id.* at 628-29; *see also Duarte*, 481 U.S. at 549 (applying similar reasoning to uphold state
 17 public accommodations law banning discrimination and requiring the group to admit women).

18 In contrast, the Court in *Dale* found that the interests of the state in its public
 19 accommodations law did not justify a "severe intrusion" on the organization's associational
 20 rights. *Dale*, 530 U.S. at 659. However, in balancing of the State's interest against the
 21 organization's, the Court found the State's claim of compelling interest attenuated because the
 22 State's public accommodations law extended its anti-discrimination requirements to private
 23 groups whose activities fell well beyond those usually involved in providing public
 24 accommodations. *Dale*, 530 U.S. at 657 n.3 (questioning the validity of applying a state public
 25 accommodations law to a private entity); *see also Thomas v. Anchorage Equal Rights Comm'n*,
 26 102 P.3d 937, 946 (Ala. 2004) (commenting that *Dale* "did not broadly rule ... that First
 27 Amendment rights should generally be deemed more compelling than laws barring ...
 28 discrimination; instead, the Court expressly found [the State's] claim of compelling interest

attenuated in the particular situation at issue.”). Thus, the Court concluded that the State’s interest did not justify the severe intrusion.

Here, CLS is not being forced to include certain members or officers, let alone individuals who are outspoken advocates for gay rights or non-Christian ideals. Moreover, Hastings has a compelling interest in prohibiting discrimination on its campus, and, in contrast to *Dale*, there is no reason to find such interest is attenuated. *See Jews for Jesus*, 968 F.2d at 297 (state has a compelling interest in prohibiting religious and racial discrimination in public accommodations); *see also Presbytery of New Jersey*, 902 F. Supp. at 521 (state interest in eliminating discrimination on the basis of, *inter alia*, sexual orientation was compelling); *Gay Rights Coal.*, 536 A.2d at 38 (“The eradication of sexual orientation discrimination is a compelling governmental interest.”). In balancing Hastings’ compelling interest to protect its students from discrimination against any infringement on CLS’s members’ expressive association, the Court concludes that Hastings’ conduct is justified and, thus, does not unconstitutionally infringe CLS members’ right to expressive association.

3. First Amendment: Free Exercise.

The Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment provides that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” U.S. Const. amend. 1. In *Employment Division, Oregon Department of Human Resources v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872 (1990), the Supreme Court made clear that a neutral law of general application could prohibit conduct that was prescribed by an individual’s religion and such law did not have to be supported by a compelling interest. *Smith*, 494 U.S. at 885; *see also Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye, Inc. v City of Hialeah*, 508 U.S. 520, 531 (1993) (“A law that is neutral and of general applicability need not be justified by a compelling government interest, even if the law has the incidental effect of burdening a particular religious practice.”). The Supreme Court also made clear that the government need not demonstrate a compelling interest even when the burden on religion by a neutral law of general applicability was substantial. *San Jose Christian College v. City of Morgan Hill*, 360 F.3d 1024, 1030 (9th Cir. 2004) (citing *Smith*, 494 U.S. at 883-84). “A law is one of neutrality and general applicability if it does not aim to ‘infringe upon

1 or restrict practices because of their religious motivation,’ and if it does not ‘in a selective
2 manner impose burdens only on conduct motivated by religious belief[.]’” *Id.* at 1031 (quoting
3 *Lukumi Babalu Aye*, 508 U.S. at 533, 543).

4 CLS argues that strict scrutiny still applies to its free exercise claim because laws
5 targeting or imposing special burdens on religious beliefs are presumptively invalid, and that
6 here, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of religion improperly targets religious beliefs.
7 (CLS Mot. at 17.) However, the Nondiscrimination Policy does not target or single out religious
8 beliefs, but rather, is a policy that is neutral and of general applicability. The Policy prohibits
9 discrimination on the basis of protected categories, including religion and sexual orientation,
10 irrespective of the motivation for such discrimination. *Cf. Vigars v. Valley Christian Ctr.*, 805
11 F. Supp. 802, 809 (N.D. Cal. 1992) (finding that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which
12 prohibits, among other things, employment discrimination on the basis of religion, “neither
13 regulates religious beliefs, nor burdens religious acts, because of their religious motivation. On
14 the contrary, it is clear that Title VII is a secular, neutral statute which, in this case, incidentally
15 has a profound impact on defendants’ free exercise of their religion.”) Contrary to CLS’s
16 contention, regulating the conduct of discrimination on the basis, *inter alia*, of religion is not
17 equivalent to regulating religious beliefs. CLS may be motivated by its religious beliefs to
18 exclude students based on their religion or sexual orientation, but that does not convert the
19 reason for Hastings’ policy prohibiting the discrimination to be one that is religiously-based.

20 Next, CLS cites *Smith* for the proposition that “where the state has in place a system of
21 individual exemptions, it may not refuse to extend that system to cases of ‘religious hardship’
22 without compelling reasons.” (CLS Mot. at 18, citing *Smith*, 494 U.S. at 884.) In the portion of
23 *Smith* to which CLS cites, the Court was explaining that the test set forth in *Sherbet v. Verner*,
24 374 U.S. 398 (1963), requiring governmental actions that substantially burden a religious
25 practice to be justified by a compelling governmental interest, has only been applied in the
26 unemployment compensation field. *Smith*, 494 U.S. at 883-84. The Court explained that “if [it]
27 were inclined to breathe into *Sherbert* some life beyond the unemployment compensation field,
28 [it] would not apply it to require exemptions from a generally applicable ... law.” *Id.* at 884.

1 Even if the test in *Sherbert* were applicable here, CLS has not demonstrated that Hastings has
 2 provided exemptions to the Nondiscrimination Policy to other student organizations while
 3 refusing to grant CLS an exemption. CLS submits the bylaws of two registered student
 4 organizations at Hastings, the Vietnamese American Law Society and La Raza. (Aden Decl.,
 5 Exs. I, O.)

6 The Vietnamese American Law Society's bylaws provide that "any full-time student at
 7 Hastings may become a member ... so long as they do not exhibit a consistent disregard and lack
 8 of respect for the objective of the organization," but specifically declares that its "[m]embership
 9 rules shall not violate the Nondiscrimination Compliance Code of Hastings." (Aden Decl., Ex.
 10 I.) Defendant Chapman, the Director of Student Services at the Law School, explains that:

11 Simply because a student organization makes reference in its bylaws to interests or
 12 objectives of the organization does not violate the Nondiscrimination Policy. Student organizations' bylaws will sometimes make reference in their sections on
 13 membership to members' interests and state that any student who holds interests or
 14 goals similar to an organization are eligible to become members. [She does] not
 15 interpret such references to members' interests as an attempt to establish a test or
 16 criteria for membership in any way. Other than [CLS] during the 2004-2005 and
 17 2005-2006 academic years, [she is] aware of no registered student organization at
 Hastings that has ever attempted to restrict its membership based on either students'
 beliefs or agreement with the group's objectives. If [she] were to become aware that
 any group was doing so, [she] would inform the group that they were in violation
 of Hastings' Nondiscrimination Policy.

18 (Declaration of Judy Hansen Chapman ("Chapman Decl."), ¶ 8.)

19 La Raza's bylaws provide that it is the organization's policy "not to discriminate on the
 20 basis of race, sex, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, or disability."
 21 (Aden Decl., Ex. O.) However, other portions of its bylaws could be read to restrict
 22 membership to students of "Raza" background. (*Id.*) During the course of the instant litigation,
 23 the bylaws of La Raza were brought to Chapman's attention, and she realized that its bylaws
 24 during the 2004-2005 academic year "could be interpreted as requiring voting members of the
 25 group to be of Hispanic descent." (Chapman Decl., ¶ 10.) If this were a requirement of La
 26 Raza's, it would violate Hastings' requirement that registered student organizations allow all
 27 Hastings student to become members. (*Id.*) Chapman had previously interpreted La Raza's
 28 bylaws as allowing all students to join the organization and become voting members. In the

1 summer of 2005, Chapman raised this issue with La Raza's officers who confirmed that any
 2 Hastings student may become a voting member of La Raza. (*Id.*) Hastings allowed La Raza to
 3 register as a student organization during the 2005-2006 academic year only with the
 4 understanding that it is in the process of revising its bylaws to make clear that all Hastings
 5 students are welcome to become voting members. (*Id.*, ¶¶ 10-11, Ex. A.) Accordingly, the
 6 Court concludes that the evidence fails to demonstrate that Hastings exempted other
 7 organizations from complying with the Nondiscrimination Policy.

8 Finally, CLS contends that pursuant to the "hybrid rights" doctrine, the Court should
 9 apply strict scrutiny to its free exercise claim. *Smith* may be read to impose strict scrutiny in
 10 "hybrid situation[s]" in which a law "involve[s] not the Free Exercise Clause alone, but the Free
 11 Exercise Clause in conjunction with other constitutional protections." *Smith*, 494 U.S. at 881-
 12 82. However, regardless of whether the "hybrid rights" doctrine is even viable, the Ninth
 13 Circuit has made clear that "to assert a hybrid-rights claim, a free exercise plaintiff must make
 14 out a colorable claim that a companion right has been violated – that is, a fair probability or a
 15 likelihood, but not a certitude, of success on the merits." *Miller v. Reed*, 176 F.3d 1202, 1207
 16 (9th Cir. 1999) (citation and internal quotations omitted); *see also San Jose Christian College*,
 17 360 F.3d at 1032. Because the Court finds that none of CLS's claims for violations of their
 18 constitutional rights have merit, there is no basis for their alleged "hybrid-rights" claim. Thus,
 19 strict scrutiny does not apply to CLS's free exercise claim. Pursuant to the applicable rational
 20 basis test, the Court concludes that CLS's right to free exercise of religion has not been
 21 unconstitutionally infringed.⁶

22
 23 ⁶ CLS also appears to argue that an exemption analogous to the "ministerial
 24 exception" to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e, *et seq.*, should
 25 apply here. (CLS Mot. at 19.) Courts apply a "ministerial exception" to Title VII because
 26 "the ministerial relationship lies so close to the heart of the church that it would offend the
 27 Free Exercise Clause simply to require the church to articulate a religious justification for its
 28 personnel decisions." *Bolland v. California Province of the Society of Jesus*, 196 F.3d 940,
 946 (9th Cir. 1999). The "ministerial exception" is limited to clergy and does not apply to
 lay personnel. *Id.* at 947. The "ministerial exception" is clearly inapplicable here. This
 matter does not involve an employment dispute. CLS is not a church, and its members and
 officers are not clergy. CLS has not provided any authority demonstrating the ministerial
 exception has been or should be extended beyond Title VII claims. Accordingly, the Court
 declines to require Hastings to apply an analogous exception to its requirement that registered

1 **4. Equal Protection Clause.**

2 “The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment commands that no State
3 shall ‘deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws,’ which is
4 essentially a direction that all persons similarly situated should be treated alike.” *Serrano v.*
5 *Francis*, 345 F.3d 1071, 1081 (9th Cir. 2003) (quoting *Cleburne v. Cleburne Living Center,*
6 *Inc.*, 473 U.S. 432, 439 (1985)). To bring a successful equal protection claim, a plaintiff must
7 demonstrate that he or she was treated differently from similarly situated persons. *Dillingham v.*
8 *I.N.S.*, 267 F.3d 996, 1007 (9th Cir. 2001). Additionally, a plaintiff must allege that the
9 defendant acted with the intent or purpose to discriminate against him or her based upon
10 membership in a protected class. *Serrano*, 345 F.3d at 1082; *Barren v. Harrington*, 152 F.3d
11 1193, 1194 (9th Cir. 2001). “Where the challenged governmental policy is ‘facially neutral,’
12 proof of its disproportionate impact on an identifiable group can satisfy the intent requirement
13 only if it tends to show that some invidious or discriminatory purpose underlies the policy.” *Lee*
14 *v. City of Los Angeles*, 250 F.3d 668, 686 (9th Cir. 2001).

15 CLS’s equal protection claim fails for two independent reasons. First, it has not
16 presented any evidence that it has been treated differently from other student groups. Second,
17 CLS has not submitted any evidence of discriminatory intent.

18 CLS argues that Hastings’ application of the Nondiscrimination Policy to it is arbitrary
19 because Hastings permits numerous other groups to choose members and/or officers dedicated
20 to their organizations’ cause. As set forth above, CLS has not presented any evidence
21 demonstrating that Hastings exempts other registered student organizations from complying
22 with the Nondiscrimination Policy.

23 CLS also argues that the treatment of CLS was intentional and argues that CLS may rely
24 on evidence of the circumstances surrounding the passage of the policy to demonstrate
25 intentional discrimination against it. (CLS Mot. at 20.) Yet, CLS does not submit any evidence
26 with respect to the passage of the Nondiscrimination Policy. Nor does CLS present any other
27

28 _____ student organizations comply with the Nondiscrimination Policy.

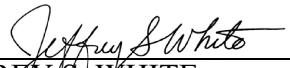
evidence demonstrating any discriminatory intent by Hastings. Accordingly, CLS's equal protection claim fails as a matter of law.⁷

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court DENIES CLS's motion for summary judgment and GRANTS Hastings and Outlaw's cross-motions for summary judgment on of all CLS's claims.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 17, 2006


JEFFREYS WHITE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

⁷ In its reply brief, CLS contends for the first time that Hastings' enforcement of its Nondiscrimination Policy violates the doctrine of unconstitutional conditions. (CLS Reply at 26.) Pursuant to the doctrine of unconstitutional conditions, "the government may not require a person to give up a constitutional right ... in exchange for a discretionary benefit conferred by the government." *Dolan v. City of Tigard*, 512 U.S. 374, 385 (1994). Because the Court finds that the enforcement of the Nondiscrimination Policy does not unconstitutionally infringe any of CLS's asserted constitutional claims, the doctrine of unconstitutional conditions is inapplicable.