LOTTERY AND RAFFLE LAW

Each academic year, many student organizations begin the fall semester with fundraisers to supplement its operating budget. While fundraising is highly encouraged by our office, the Office of Student Activities & Greek Life wants to inform you about a little-known fact about fundraising in the state of Kansas...

"lotteries" and "raffles," by definition, conducted by student organizations are illegal.

The key to hosting a lottery-like or raffle-like event is to avoid meeting the definition of these events. A definition of a lottery is “anything that offers a chance for a prize for a price.” Therefore, the simplest way to do this is to eliminate any price or cost to participate.

Here's how to do it:

- Create two sets of tickets; one set designated for “donations” and one set designated for “non-donations.” **Do not print the price, cost or donation amount on either set of tickets.**
- For those who donate, give him or her the appropriate ticket. For those who do not donate and want to participate, give him or her the appropriate ticket.
- That’s it!

Having said all this, please note the conduct of others is not a measure of whether such conduct is lawful, moral, appropriate or correct. While it may appear law enforcement on the lottery question is lax - like the Great American Duck Race and other similar events happening in our city and state - student organizations should seek to adhere to the law as we understand it.

We realize this law may be confusing as well as counter-intuitive. Therefore, please contact University Counsel at 670-1712 for further clarification.