Madi Holcomb

Iowa State University officials turned down the Heterosexual Society from becoming a registered campus group this Tuesday.

Lisa Norbury Kilian, assistant dean of students at the university, said the school turned the group down because it refuses to admit homosexuals as full members.

Kilian said that no registered campus group can discriminate on the basis of color, handicap, nationality, race, religion, marital status or sexual orientation.

Dee Backes, a senior from Decorah, is a member of the society.

Backes believes the decision to turn down the society violates their rights of free speech and freedom of association.

She said that the  group would bring in speakers and sponsor a heterosexual pride week and  would have other activities "to fight the misinformation of homosexuals and AIDS."

She said she believes the society already has a gay member, but she thinks he is a plant from one of the two gay campus groups.

Backes said that homosexuals are allowed to join the two lower levels of the society. In order to be promoted to the top two levels, members must sign forms promising that they are straight.

Kilian said that giving special membership privileges and rank to only particular members of a group because of their sexual orientation is against the university's policies.

No other group can exclude a particular group from its ranks, except fraternities and sororities on campus, which are allowed to discriminate by gender.

Backes insisted that the university decision violates her rights.

"We want to be a registered group because we have the right to be a registered group," she said.