

6.021 Hazing Prohibited

- (1) Each university board of trustees shall establish an anti-hazing policy as part of the university's student code of conduct or as a separate regulation, that prohibits students or other persons associated with any university student organization from engaging in hazing.

- (2) Hazing means any action or situation, which occurs on or off university property, that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes including, but not limited to, initiation or admission into or affiliation with any university student organization or group whether or not officially recognized by the university. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, pressuring or coercing the student into violating state or federal law; any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance; or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student; and also includes any activity that would subject the student to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student. Hazing does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective.

- (3) Each anti-hazing policy must state that the following circumstances do not constitute a defense to allegations of hazing:
 - (a) The consent of the victim had been obtained;
 - (b) The conduct or activity that resulted in the death or injury of a person was not part of any official organizational event or otherwise sanctioned or approved by the student organization; or
 - (c) The conduct or activity that resulted in the death or injury of a person was not done as a condition of membership into a student organization.

- (4) Each anti-hazing policy must provide a program for the enforcement of such regulations and must adopt appropriate penalties for violations of such regulations, to be administered by the person at the institution responsible for the sanctioning of such organizations.
 - (a) Penalties may include the imposition of educational sanctions, fines, the withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with the policy or payment of fines, and the imposition of probation, suspension, dismissal, or expulsion, depending upon the severity of the violation.

- (b) In the case of an organization that authorizes, allows, permits or encourages hazing in blatant disregard of such regulations, penalties may also include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on university property or to otherwise operate under the sanction of the university.
- (c) All penalties imposed by the university shall be in addition to any penalty imposed for a violation of section 1006.63, Florida Statutes, and any of the criminal laws of the state, or for a violation of any other regulation of the university to which the student or student organization may be found responsible.
- (5) All students must be provided with a copy of the anti-hazing policy and each university student organization must include the policy as part of the organization's bylaws. Each university shall make training opportunities available for students and student organizations that are designed to reinforce the policy and increase awareness of the dangers of hazing.

Authority: Section 7(d), Art. IX, Fla. Const.; Section 1006.63, Florida Statutes; History-New, _____.