HAZING BY UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

1. General Information. The development of interpersonal relationships is an integral part of the opportunities provided through University recognized student organizations. This development is nurtured in an atmosphere of social and moral responsibility, respect for duly constituted authority, and loyalty to the principles of higher education. Further, it is recognized that while social behavior cannot be legislated, any student organization without morally sound precepts and practices is not a constructive influence on university students. The organization has a solemn obligation in the development of its members, the University, and the communities where the organizations are accountable for good citizenship.

2. Purpose. The purpose of this Information Circular is to implement a definition of "hazing" as a type of disorderly conduct which constitutes a violation of the Student Code of Conduct which violation may result in appropriate disciplinary action.

3. Definition. Hazing, as a part of initiation or any other activity in the treatment of organizational members, prospective members or others, as a requirement for membership or implied requirement for acceptance in the organization, is any action taken or situation intentionally created, whether on or off the University campus, in University facilities or on the premises of University owned or controlled fraternities or sororities, that does, with or without specific intent, produce or result in mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule, anguish or suffering for another individual or group of individuals. Such hazing activities and situations include but are not limited to the following: paddling in any form; the creation of excessive fatigue; physical and mental shocks; imposed quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts or road trips; alcohol abuse; requirements to publicly wear apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts or buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and, any other such activities which are not consistent with organization ritual, the policies or regulations of national organizational affiliates, or the regulations of the University.

4. Administrative Responsibility. The responsibility for publicizing this information and providing general advisement for University recognized student organizations regarding hazing shall be with the Dean of Students or designee. Appropriate action for activities by University recognized student organizations which constitute violations of this Information Circular and the Student Code of Conduct shall be with the Dean of Students.

Approved January 27, 1988