HAZING POLICY

Policy Statement

The University of Southern Mississippi is a state institution of higher education devoted to excellence in teaching, research and service to the people of the state. A part of that mission is fulfilled by the university's commitment to the development of students through academic and extracurricular activities.

In keeping with its commitment to a positive academic environment, the university has unconditionally opposed any situation created intentionally or unintentionally to produce mental, physical, psychological or emotional discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

This policy is required for the effective communication of university policy regarding hazing.

Who Needs to Know This Policy

All members of The University of Southern Mississippi community.

Website Address for this Policy

www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-stua-gl-002

Definitions

Policy/Procedures
Section 1. The University of Southern Mississippi unconditionally opposes any situation created intentionally or unintentionally to produce mental, physical, psychological or emotional discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.

Section 2. Hazing shall include any or all of the following:
A. Any willful act or requirement by a member or new member, directed at a member or new member, that:
   1. Is likely to cause bodily harm, injury, physical punishment, or disturbing pain;
   2. Is likely to compromise the dignity of a person, cause embarrassment, shame, malicious ridicule, psychological harm or substantial emotional strain;
   3. Would reasonably impair a person’s academic efforts;
   4. Compels a person to participate in illegal or immoral behavior.

Section 3. Time. New member activities shall not take place from the hours of 1 a.m. to 8 a.m., unless written permission is obtained from the national organization and Greek Life office.

Section 4. Supportive behavior. The creation of an environment conducive and/or supportive to the propagation of hazing traditions or culture is a violation of this policy. Insomuch, it is possible that self-directed or inflicted activities by members or new members would constitute hazing if a culture or atmosphere was pervasive enough to dictate acceptance, tradition, lineage, or otherwise perceived “need” to perform the activity.

Section 5. Mississippi Hazing Law (§97-3-105. Hazing; initiation into organization.)
A. A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such injury.
   1. Any person violating the provisions of “A” shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000) or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six (6) months, or both.
B. A person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person.
   1. Any person violating the provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00).

Review

The Assistant Dean for Greek Life is responsible for the review of this policy every four years (or whenever circumstances require immediate review).

Forms/Instructions
N/A

Appendices

N/A

Related Information

N/A

History

11/01/11: Formatted for Institutional Policies website.
03/04/13: Formatted for template. Minor editing throughout.
Amendments: Month, Day, Year – summary of changes
Authorization

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STUA-GL-002

As the Responsible Officer, I have reviewed this policy and believe it represents the current policy.

[Signature]
Responsible Officer

[Signature]
Date 04/29/2013