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| <b>Policies of the University of North Texas</b> | Chapter 7       |
| <b>07.013 Hazing</b>                             | Student Affairs |

**Policy Statement.** The University of North Texas (UNT) is committed to providing a safe environment for all members of the university community and prohibits hazing by any student, student group or employee.

**Application of Policy.** All UNT Students and Student Groups.

**Definitions.**

1. **Appropriate University Official.** Any UNT employee or official who is reasonably in a position to stop or remedy hazing; including but not limited to officials responsible for student housing, student conduct, student organizations, and Greek Life; athletic coaches and trainers; and advisors to student organizations.
  
2. **Hazing.** Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization regardless of whether the student victim may have consented to or acquiesced in the activity. The term includes:
  - a. any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;
  
  - b. any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
  
  - c. any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
  
  - d. any activity that intentionally intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an

educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization of the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subdivision; and

- e. any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Code of Student Conduct; other university policies; or local, state, or federal laws.
3. Student. An individual taking courses at the university, either full- or part-time and pursuing either graduate or undergraduate studies, including individuals who withdraw from the university during the conduct process; those who are not currently enrolled in courses but who have a continuing academic relationship with the university and those who have applied for admission or readmission to the university.
4. University Student Group (Student Group). A group of students who share a common interest and who are recognized as a student group with the Student Activities and Organizations Office, or groups who officially represent the university, including, but not limited to, cheerleading, ROTC, athletic teams, marching band, etc.

Procedures and Responsibilities:

### **1. Prohibited Personal Conduct.**

No person may engage in hazing; solicit, encourage, direct, aid, or attempt to aid another to engage in hazing; recklessly permit hazing to occur; or have firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student at the UNT, or have firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fail to report that knowledge to the Dean of Students or other appropriate university official.

No person who has cause to believe that an incident of hazing may have adversely affected the physical or mental health or welfare of an individual under 18 years of age, shall fail to immediately report the incident to law enforcement authorities in accordance with the obligation to report child abuse or neglect. The obligation to report child abuse or neglect is mandated by state law and a report must be made to law enforcement authorities prior to the notices related to hazing. Reporting an incident of child abuse or neglect to any other institutional official, other than the police department, does not fulfill the legal obligation to report child abuse or neglect.

**Responsible Party:** UNT Community

### **2. Prohibited Organizational Conduct.**

No student group may condone or encourage hazing. No officer, authorized representative, or any combination of members, potential new members, or alumni of the organization commit or assist in the commission of hazing. Both a student group and individuals participating in hazing may be subject to discipline.

**Responsible Party:** All UNT Student Groups

### **3. Sanctions.**

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, with sanctions up to and including expulsion, termination, and/or permanent suspension.

All reports of hazing regarding student groups will be investigated by the Dean of Students or a designee. Student groups may also be referred for investigation by the UNT Police.

**Responsible Party:** Dean of Students, Human Resources, UNT Police

### **4. Immunity for Good Faith Reporting.**

The university may elect not to pursue disciplinary sanctions for a violation of this policy for persons who voluntarily and in good faith provide information related to hazing. A person who makes a report in bad faith or with malice may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Responsible Party:** Dean of Students, Human Resources, UNT Police

### **5. Obligation to Report.**

A person who believes that he or she has been subjected to hazing or a person who has knowledge of hazing activities should report the incident(s) to the Dean of Students, the UNT Police or another university official. All university officials must promptly report incidents of hazing to the Dean of Students Office or UNT Police.

**Responsible Party:** Dean of Students, UNT Police

### **6. Reporting By Health Care Professional.**

A doctor or other medical practitioner who treats a student who may have been subjected to hazing activities may report the suspected hazing activities to police or other law enforcement officials, and in accordance with Texas law will be immune from civil or other liability that might otherwise be imposed or incurred as a result of the report, unless the report is made in bad faith or with malice.

**Responsible Party:** Student Health and Wellness Center

**7. Notification.**

UNT will distribute a list of organizations that have been sanctioned for hazing or convicted for hazing on or off the campus of the institution during the preceding three years to each student within the first three weeks of each semester.

**Responsible Party:** Dean of Students

**References and Cross-references.**

Texas Education Code, Chapter 37, Subchapter F and §51.936.

UNT Policy 07.012, Code of Student Conduct

Regent Rule 04.1100

Approved: 9/1/1988

Effective: 7/21/2014

Revised: 9/95; 9/98; 8/02; 7/14