HAZING POLICY

Hazing in state educational institutions is prohibited by both state law (Sections 51.936 and 37.151, Texas Education Code), and by the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System (Series 50101, Section 2.8). Individuals or organizations engaging in hazing could be subject to fines and charged with criminal offenses. Additionally, the law does not affect or in any way restrict the right of the university to enforce its own rules against hazing.

According to the law, a person commits a hazing offense if the person engages in hazing; solicits, directs, encourages, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing; intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly allows hazing to occur; or fails to report firsthand knowledge that a hazing incident has occurred in writing to the chief student affairs officer. The fact that a person consented to or acquiesced in a hazing activity is not a defense to prosecution for hazing under this law.

An organization commits an offense if the organization condones or encourages hazing or if an officer or any combination of members, pledges, or alumni of the organization commits or assists in the commission of hazing.

The law defines hazing as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation; or that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student and a violation of that prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person submitting to the hazing subject to discipline.

The law does not affect or in any way limit the right of the university to enforce its own rules against hazing.

Any student who engages in conduct that constitutes hazing is subject to disciplinary action regardless of whether he or she is charged with a criminal offense.