

## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL: USF REGULATIONS

NOTICE: PROPOSED NEW REGULATION  
30, 2009

DATE: March

Regulation No: USF 6.0023  
Prohibited

TITLE: Hazing

### Summary of Regulation:

Florida Board of Governors (BOG) Resolution (1-7-03) provides that each board of trustees may adopt, amend or repeal regulations to implement the provisions of law conferring duties upon it. Such regulations must be adopted, amended or repealed pursuant to the Board of Governors Regulation Development Procedure (7-21-05) and must be consistent with law and the resolutions and strategic plan of the Board of Governors.

The Florida Board of Governors resolution (1-7-03) and proposed Regulation 1.001 and Florida Statutes section 1006.63 (Hazing Prohibited) require universities to develop anti-hazing regulations. The USF system prohibits hazing in the Student Code of Conduct, however, the BOG proposed Regulation 1.001 and Florida Statutes section 1006.63 require a more in-depth anti-hazing policy that includes penalties and enforcement.

The proposed new Regulation was the result of the work of a Hazing Work Group that was charged by the Vice President for Student Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy that complies with Florida Statutes and educates our students. Members from the Dean for Students office, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Center for Student Involvement, Student Rights and Responsibilities, Athletics, and Housing and Residential Education met to develop the regulation. The Regulation was approved by the Student Affairs Management Council (9-30-08).

Full text of the proposed regulation follows: or contact Dee Brown at [USFLEGAL@ADMIN.USF.EDU](mailto:USFLEGAL@ADMIN.USF.EDU).

End of Summary.



PROPOSED REGULATION:

University of South Florida system Regulation  
Regulation Number: USF 6.0023

Subject: Prohibition of Hazing

(1) The University of South Florida system (USF system) prohibits any form of hazing of its students, including hazing by students or other persons associated with any student organization, at any time, and at any location.

(2) Definition: As used in this regulation, "hazing" as defined by Section 1006.63, Florida Statutes, means any action or situation 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 organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution, regardless of a person's willingness to participate. "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.

In addition to Florida Statutes Section 1006.63, hazing as defined by the University of South Florida system also includes, but is not limited to: the forced use of alcohol, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, physical and psychological shocks, deception, verbal abuse, personal servitude, kidnapping, deprivation of privileges granted to others in the organization, by use of force or duress, and any other activities which are contrary to academic achievement, the stated purpose of the local and/or (inter)national organization and/or the mission, policies or regulations of the University of South Florida system or applicable state law.

(3) Investigation and Response: The USF system will respond and investigate reports of alleged hazing received from any source and will determine whether to proceed with campus disciplinary action, to forward a report to appropriate law enforcement officials for prosecution as a criminal matter, or both. All reports of hazing will be

directed for investigation to the appropriate department depending on the nature of the report.

(a) Persons who know, or suspect that hazing has taken place are required to report hazing to the appropriate authority designated at each campus.

1. Tampa campus: Office of the Dean for Students and/or Fraternity and Sorority Life.

2. USF Health: Office of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

3. St. Petersburg campus: Office of Student Services/Rights and Responsibilities.

4. Polytechnic campus: Office of the Director of Student Affairs/Dean for Students.

5. Sarasota-Manatee campus: Office of the Associate VP for Student Services.

(b) Individual: In most cases, an individual will be referred to the campus conduct officer and will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Student Code of Conduct. The USF system Student Code of Conduct is available on-line at [WWW.SA.USF.EDU/SRR](http://WWW.SA.USF.EDU/SRR).

Responsibility for a Student Code of Conduct violation will result in disciplinary sanctions that are appropriate for the violation.

(c) Student Organizations: Organizations will be referred to the appropriate campus department where the organization is registered. The department will investigate and impose sanctions if it is determined that the conduct violated the terms and conditions applicable to their registration and/or the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct and any other applicable governing rules, policies and regulations set forth from the respective campus. In addition, there will be times when an organization will be referred to a campus conduct officer directly for joint or independent review, investigation and disposition.

(d) Legal Process: If criminal charges are filed against an individual, group, or organization, the USF system reserves the right to proceed with its investigation and adjudication process according to the Student Code of Code as the USF system handles the educational aspect of the alleged violations separately from any criminal legal procedures.

AUTHORITY TO ADOPT: Art. IX, Sec. 7, Fla. Constitution and Resolutions issued by the FL Board of Governors.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL INITIATING PROPOSED

REGULATION(S): Dr. Jennifer Meningall, Vice President of Student  
Affairs, Dr. Kevin Banks, Assistant Vice President of Student  
Affairs/Dean for Students.

WRITTEN COMMENTS CONCERNING THIS PROPOSED  
REGULATION MAY BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER  
THE POSTING DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO:

Dee Brown, Agency Clerk  
Office of the General Counsel  
University of South Florida System  
4202 East Fowler Avenue, Suite ADM 250  
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