

Title 4 - Codification of Board Policy Statement

Chapter 20

**GENERAL POLICIES REGULATING STUDENTS
AND STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

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A. STUDENTS

Section 1. General Policy

In the governance of a Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) institution, the president and the faculty rely chiefly upon the individual and collective self-control, a sense of honor and duty of the students. Students are expected to register promptly, to pursue their studies with diligence, to attend classes regularly and to show, both within and outside of the System, such respect for order, morality, personal honor, and the rights, both of person and property, of others as is reasonably expected of good citizens.

Section 2. Student Conduct

1. The basic policies of the institution governing student conduct are contained in the Rules and Disciplinary Procedures for students on each campus.
2. As responsible members of the community, students will be given opportunities to provide appropriate feedback to the institution, the staff, and the faculty on the quality of their experiences in every course and other services on campus.

Section 3. Absence from Class

1. Institutions may adopt policies allowing student absences for institutionally approved activities or other reasons allowed by the institutions.
2. It is the policy of the NSHE to be sensitive to the religious obligations of its students. Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall, whenever possible, be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor in advance in writing, according to the policy of the institution offering the class, if the student intends to participate in a religious holiday that does not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the assignment at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the institution that could not reasonably have been avoided.

Any student, who is denied a make-up option after appropriately noticing the instructor shall have the right to appeal that decision through the normal appeal mechanism in place at that institution.

3. This policy statement, along with additional relevant institutional policies, should be included in catalogues or handbooks distributed to students and faculty.

(B/R 3/17)

Section 4. Alcoholic Beverage Policy

1. The storage and use of alcoholic beverages shall be permitted to students 21 years of age or older living in approved NSHE housing, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Students over 21 years of age may elect in each living unit to be clustered so as to facilitate enforcement of all state and local laws relative to the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Their being permitted to do so would result from a majority decision in which all members of that living unit participate.
- b. Students who elect to cluster so as to enjoy the privilege of drinking will have the responsibility of obeying the law (as will minor students).
- c. The privilege of clustered students to consume alcoholic beverages may be revoked by the majority vote of others residing in the living unit.
- d. The purchase of alcoholic beverages for use at NSHE functions shall be permitted for the following functions or pursuant to the following conditions:
 - (1) Conferences, programs, institutes, and similar functions where a part of the fee collected is for a cocktail party.
 - (2) Host account expenditures for alcoholic beverages with dinner and for large receptions.
 - (3) Student associations must have the institutional president's prior approval and the institutional president is to be the only person authorized to approve payment for the purchase of alcoholic beverages from Student Association Funds. The institutional president will only grant this authorization upon being satisfied that proper supervision is provided in the dispensing of alcoholic beverages.
2. Except as provided above, the storage, possession or use of alcoholic beverages shall not be permitted on University owned or supervised property, including University supervised housing, apartments, residence halls, or on sorority or fraternity property.
3. Any student who exhibits offensive behavior on the University owned or supervised property while under the influence of alcoholic beverages shall be subject to disciplinary action.
4. The president has the authority to designate the time and place for special events where alcoholic beverages may be served on the University campus.

Section 5. Fraternities

1. Any fraternity, in order to be approved by the University of Nevada as a University residence, shall provide adult supervision within its premises mutually acceptable to the Office of Student Affairs and the fraternity consisting of:
 - a. A qualified adult residing in the fraternity house; or
 - b. A group of alumni, not less than three, appointed by the Fraternity Alumni Association.

2. Such supervision shall be conducted pursuant to rules and regulations prescribed by the appropriate student affairs office.

Section 6. Hazing

Hazing has no place within a community of scholars. The Board of Regents of the NSHE affirms its opposition to any form of hazing. NSHE institutions advocate civility in society and an adherence to the fundamental principles of honesty, integrity, respect, fairness, development of individual character, and sensitivity to the dignity of all persons. These principles should be fostered and nurtured in a broad spectrum of activities that yield social, intellectual and physical benefits. Therefore, hazing of any nature is unacceptable at any public institution of higher education in the State of Nevada.

1. No member or alumnus of the NSHE community acting as an individual or part of a group shall conduct or condone hazing activities.
2. Hazing is defined as any method of initiation into or prerequisite to becoming a member of the NSHE community, or any group associated therewith, engaged in by an individual that intentionally or recklessly endangers another individual. Any activity upon which the initiation into or affiliation with an organization or group is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be forced activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding. Hazing may occur on or off the premises of the organization and/or educational institution. Hazing is most often seen as an initiation rite into a student organization or group, but may occur in other situations.
3. Hazing activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Any physical activity, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of food, liquor, drugs or other substance or any other brutal treatment or other forced physical activity that is likely to adversely affect the physical health of the person;
 - b. Any situation which subjects the individual to extreme stress, such as sleep deprivations, forced exclusion from social contact, required participation in public stunts, or forced conduct which produces pain, physical discomfort, or adversely affects the mental health or dignity of an individual; and
 - c. Any expectations or commands that force individuals to engage in an illegal act and/or willful destruction or removal of public or private property.
4. Each institution within NSHE shall develop clear procedures for dealing with hazing, requirements for reporting hazing, clear reporting lines for infractions, investigation procedures, and potential discipline. Each institution shall apply a reasonable person standard, and the discipline shall be proportionate to the infractions. All disciplinary actions or sanctions shall be congruent with Title 2, Chapter 6 or Chapter 10 of the NSHE Code and appropriate institutional bylaws. Both individuals and organizations committing an offense under the anti-hazing policy may be found in violation and be subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions.

5. An allegation of hazing, reporting of a suspicion that hazing may have occurred, or a request for an investigation of hazing may be initiated by anyone. Campus policies shall designate the appropriate place and method of reporting. Each campus is encouraged to develop an educational program about the serious danger and risk involved in any hazing activity and the subsequent harm that can occur to both the individual subjected to hazing and those engaged in hazing.
6. Each campus shall develop procedures and policies to report cases of hazing that fall under *Nevada Revised Statutes*.
(B/R 6/13)

B. STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Student Body Organizations

1. The Student Body Organization, in exercising authority granted by its constitution, shall conform to rules, regulations and policies as established by the Board of Regents, and to all applicable statutes of the State of Nevada. If any of the provisions of a Student Body Constitution are deemed to be in conflict with any of the rules, regulations and policies of the Board of Regents, or applicable statutes of the State of Nevada, the Board of Regents and the State of Nevada rules, regulations, policies, and statutes shall control.
2. All actions taken by a Student Body Organization shall be congruent with the goals and objectives stated in each constitution and other governing documents and shall be designed to serve the best needs of all constituents.

Section 2. Student Association Finances

1. Student association funds shall be placed in the current funds-unrestricted group and administered as are other funds included in this group, with the following points observed:
 - a. The constitution of each student association will guide budget development and execution and no constitutional provision shall conflict with Board of Regents policy and generally accepted accounting principles for colleges and universities. The objective of these principles is to meet the public trust obligations for stewardship and accountability, necessitating a system of accounting and reporting that will insure full disclosure of the results of operations and financial position of the funds.
 - b. Established procedures for all purchasing encumbrances of funds, payroll, cash receipts and gifts, as stated in the division's administrative manual, shall be followed, except as noted below.

- c. An institutional president may delegate to a full-time professional business manager, employed by the institution and funded by a student association, all or part of the responsibilities and authority delegated to a business center controller or purchasing director for other institution funds. In the absence of such delegation, the president or the institutional business center controller retains this responsibility and authority. If such delegation is made, (1) the associated students' business manager will be guided by the same generally accepted accounting principles for colleges and universities as are division controllers; and (2) the association's books shall be audited at least once in every three-year period and a report on the audit shall be presented to the Board of Regents.
 - d. Gifts shall not be accepted by a student association until approved by the Board of Regents.
 - e. The institutional president shall ensure the legality of student body transactions and has the authority to stop the execution of a contract or transaction for legal reasons. A system of review must be in place whereby the president or the president's designee reviews transactions and contracts. This authority shall not be used as a device for censorship nor to control development of student body policy; rather, the intent is to assure the legality of student body transactions. If the execution of a student body contract or transaction is stopped by the institutional president for legal reasons, he/she shall state his/her reasons in writing within five working days and return the contract to the president of the student body organization. The president of the student body organization may appeal this decision to the Board of Regents at its next regular meeting. The institutional president shall cause the appeal to be placed on the Board of Regents agenda pursuant to Article V, Section 11 of the Board of Regents Bylaws.
- 2. a. Student associations shall follow all of the policies and fiscal management procedures expected of other units within the institution. In order to guarantee fiscal accountability, expenditures must be approved by both the business manager funded by the student association and the student association in accordance with its constitution. In the absence of a business manager, the president or his or her designee must approve the expenditure.
 - b. Those campus organizations and programs, which receive funds from the activities and programs portions of student fees, shall submit a budget request to the student government for funding.
- 3. The public trust obligations for stewardship and accountability necessitate a system of accountability and reports, which will ensure disclosure to students of the results of operations and financial position of the funds. A full report to the student body of the detailed expenditure of funds should be publicized at least once during the Fall or Spring semester.
 - 4. Each student association shall provide annually to the Board of Regents a report depicting revenues available, detailed expenditures and beginning and ending account balances of the association for the immediately preceding fiscal year. Each report must be presented no later than December following the fiscal year.

Section 3. Regulations for Meetings of Student Governments

1. Pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* 241.017, the Board of Regents establishes these regulations for the meetings of the student governments of the NSHE.
2. "Student government" means each association of students within the NSHE whose constitution has been approved by the Board of Regents of the NSHE.
3. The meetings of any multi-member executive or legislative body, committee, subcommittee, commission or subsidiary thereof of a student government shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Nevada Open Meeting Law, Chapter 241 of the *Nevada Revised Statutes*, as amended
4. This section shall not apply to judicial proceedings of any student government, except for proceedings or meetings to consider the adoption of rules.
5. Violations of this section shall be treated as follows:
 - a. Any action taken in violation of the provisions of this section is void.
 - b. Each official of a student government who attends a student government meeting covered by the provisions of this section where action is taken in violation of any provision of this section with knowledge of the fact that the meeting is in violation thereof has engaged in conduct which violates an applicable stated policy of the Board of Regents of the NSHE, and such conduct constitutes a violation of Section 6.2.2(t) of the NSHE Code.
 - c. The wrongful exclusion of any person or persons from a student government meeting covered by this section is conduct in violation of Section 6.2.2(t) of the NSHE Code.
 - d. An official of a student government who attends a student government meeting covered by this section at which action is taken in violation of this section is not the accomplice of any other member so attending insofar as violation of the NSHE Code is concerned.
 - e. Any violation of this section constitutes a violation of Section 10.2.1(u) of the NSHE Code and shall be processed procedurally in accordance with Chapter 10 of the NSHE Code.
 - f. The office of every student government official found to have engaged in conduct in violation of this section shall become vacant upon a final determination being made under Chapter 10 of the NSHE Code that such violation has occurred.

(B/R 6/13)