NUMBER: STAF 3.05

SECTION: Student Affairs and Academic Support

SUBJECT: Hazing

DATE: June 1, 1992

REVISED: August 10, 2010

Policy for: Columbia Campus
Procedure for: Columbia Campus
Authorized by: Dennis A. Pruitt
Issued by: Student Life

I. Policy

No organization, registered or otherwise, officially or in fact, may participate in the activity of hazing.

Hazing is any activity undertaken by a group or organization or a member of that group or organization in which members or prospective members are subjected to activities which harass, intimidate, physically exhaust, impart pain, cause undue mental fatigue or mental distress, or which cause mutilation or alteration of the body or parts of the body. Such activities include but are not limited to, tests of endurance, submission of members or prospective members to potentially dangerous or hazardous circumstances, activities which have a foreseeable potential for resulting in personal injury, or any activity which by its nature is so profound that it would have a potential to cause severe mental anxiety, mental distress, panic, degradation, or public embarrassment.

Registered organizations and groups shall be permitted certain initiation ceremonies and activities, which when examined by the ordinary University student, would seem reasonable under the circumstances and justified in view of the purpose for which they are conducted.

It shall not constitute a defense to the charge of hazing that the participants took part voluntarily, that they voluntarily assumed the risks or hardship of the activity, or that no injury in fact was suffered.

II. Procedure

To initiate a complaint for alleged hazing contact the Associate Vice President for Student Life and Development.

III. Related Policies

See also:

S.C. Code of Laws section 16-3-510 (http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t16c003.htm)

IV. Reason for Revision

Policy organization, content, and accuracy reviewed in July 2010; no substantive revisions required.