February 8, 2019

TO: All Students at The University of Texas at Austin
FROM: Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
SUBJECT: Texas Hazing Statute Summary and The University of Texas at Austin Hazing Regulations

The 70th Texas Legislature enacted a law concerning hazing. Under the law, individuals or organizations engaging in hazing could be subject to fines and charged with a criminal offense.

According to the law, a person can commit a hazing offense not only by engaging in a hazing activity, but also by soliciting, directing, encouraging, aiding or attempting to aid another in hazing; by intentionally, knowingly or recklessly allowing hazing to occur; or by failing to report, in writing to the Dean of Students or another appropriate official of the institution, first-hand knowledge that a hazing incident is planned or has occurred. The fact that a person consented to or acquiesced in a hazing activity is not a defense to prosecution for hazing under this law.

In an effort to encourage reporting of hazing incidents, the law grants immunity from civil or criminal liability to any person who reports a specific hazing event in good faith and without malice to the Dean of Students or other appropriate official of the institution and immunizes that person from participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of the report.

HAZING DEFINED

The law and the University define 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 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 any organization whose members are or include students at an educational institution. Hazing includes but is not limited to:

A. any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance in or 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 food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug or other substance which 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 intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame or humiliation, or 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 or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subsection;
E. any activity that induces, causes or requires the student to perform a duty or task which involves a violation of the Penal Code.

UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINARY RULES

This law does not affect or in any way limit the right of the university to enforce its own rules against hazing under Chapter 14 of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities.
DANGEROUS OR DEGRADING ACTIVITIES
In addition to the hazing activities listed in Hazing Defined, the following list provides further examples of activities which under certain conditions constitute acts which are dangerous, harmful or degrading, and are in violation of Chapter 14 and subsections 6-303(b)(3) and 11-404(a)(6) of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities:

• calisthenics, such as sit-ups, push-ups or any other form of physical exercise;
• total or partial nudity at any time;
• the wearing or carrying of any embarrassing, degrading or physically burdensome article;
• physical contact such as pushing, paddling, tackling or any other;
• throwing any substance on a person;
• consumption of alcoholic beverages accompanied by either threats or peer pressure;
• lineups for the purpose of interrogating, demeaning or intimidating;
• transportation and abandonment (road trips, kidnaps, walks, rides, drops, etc.);
• confining individuals in an area that is uncomfortable or dangerous (hot box effect, high temperature, too small, etc.);
• any form of individual interrogation;
• any type of servitude that is of personal benefit to the individual members;
• wearing of embarrassing or uncomfortable clothing;
• assigning pranks such as stealing, painting objects, harassing other organizations;
• intentionally messing up the house or a room for clean up;
• demeaning names;
• yelling or screaming; and
• requiring boxing matches or fights for entertainment.

DISCIPLINED ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE RESOLVED VIA MUTUAL AGREEMENTS
In accordance with requirements of the Texas Education Code, Section 51.936(c), the following organizations have been disciplined for hazing and/or convicted for hazing, on or off campus, during the preceding three years:

• Alpha Epsilon Pi Penalty pending.
• Alpha Sigma Rho* Conditional registration is two (2) years (Completion pending administrative extension).
• Alpha Tau Omega Cancelled, term end date is no less than four (4) years from April 25, 2018.
• Delta Sigma Phi Conditional registration is two (2) years (March 29, 2020).
• Kappa Alpha Order Conditional registration is two (2) years (August 18, 2019).
• Omega Phi Gamma Conditional registration is two (2) years (August 16, 2019).
• Phi Kappa Psi Conditional registration is one and a half (1.5) years (May 23, 2020).
• Sigma Alpha Mu Penalty pending.
• Sigma Chi Penalty pending.
• Sigma Lambda Gamma Penalty issued May 18, 2016 (Suspended by Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc. through May 31, 2017; conditional registration two (2) years (May 31, 2019)).
• Texas Iron Spikes* Conditional registration is two (2) years (January 24, 2020).
• Texas Rho Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Cancelled, term end date is no less than four (4) years from May 23, 2018.
• Undergraduate Business Council* Conditional registration is two (2) years (November 29, 2019).

ORGANIZATIONS WITH RESOLVED DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE PRECEEDING THREE YEARS

• Alpha Sigma Phi Written warning issued March 30, 2016.
• Chi Beta Delta* Conditional registration is two (2) years (Completed December 8, 2017).
• Delta Chi* Penalty issued June 14, 2017. No longer active. Conditional registration will be two (2) years from return to active status.
• Gamma Beta Suspended until December 22, 2018.
• Kappa Kappa Gamma Probation is one (1) year (Completed December 14, 2017).
• Lambda Phi Epsilon Probation is two (2) years (December 12, 2018).
• Phi Delta Theta Suspension completed December 23, 2017.
• Pi Kappa Alpha* Conditional registration is two (2) years (Completed October 31, 2016).
• Pi Kappa Phi* Probation is one (1) year (Completed December 6, 2017).
• Texas Royals Probation is one (1) year (Completed May 19, 2018).
• Zeta Beta Tau* Conditional registration is two (2) years (administrative extension to December 31, 2016).

* Resolved via Mutual Agreement  ♦ More than one disciplinary sanction for hazing violations in the past three (3) years

To report an act of hazing to the Office of the Dean of Students, visit deanofstudents.utexas.edu. For further information or clarification of probationary member activities, please contact Student Activities in the Office of the Dean of Students, 2609 University Ave., Room 2.112, 512-471-3065.