**Introduction**

The most damaging instrument to student groups/organizations (social, honor, service, athletic) is the employment of a program of education, pledging or membership which includes hazing. This counterproductive and hazardous custom has no rightful place in any student group/organization.

Hazing at Bloomsburg University is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Hazing risks human lives, brutalizes everyone involved, and jeopardizes the very existence of student groups/organizations on the Bloomsburg University campus.

**Definition**

Hazing is defined as any action or situation created, whether on or off campus, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, fright, humiliation or ridicule. Any mental or physical requirement, request or obligation placed upon any person which could cause pain, disgrace, or injury, or which is personally degrading or violates any federal, state, local statute or university policy is also considered hazing.

For the purpose of this definition, any activity as described in this definition which the initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in an organization/group is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be "forced" activity, the willingness of an individuals to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

**Implementation**

I. The officers, primarily the president of each organization, are responsible for informing members (pledges/new members, associate members, affiliates, guests, alumni) of the hazing policy. The policy will be read by the president of the organization to the membership at the first meeting of the organization each semester and will be posted in a prominent place for the members to see. Prospective members (pledges, postulates, etc.), hereafter referred to as pledges, will be informed of the time and place of all activities and a schedule should be included in an education manual.

II. Any person experiencing or witnessing an action in violation of this policy is encouraged to report the incident to the Director of Student Standards and/or Coordinator of Greek Life. Appropriate university disciplinary procedures and municipal and State statuettes are applicable, including House Bill 749, the Anti-Hazing Law.

III. All social fraternities and sororities must file the Anti-Hazing Compliance Form with the Coordinator of Greek Life one week prior to the beginning of each pledge period. Other organizations will file with the Director of Student Standards.

IV. Cases of alleged violations of this policy may be thoroughly investigated by a representative panel of students and faculty/administrators and may result in suspension of all pledge activities during the period of investigation. If cleared of the charges, the pledges must complete the entire pledging period before initiation, as determined by the Coordinator of Greek Life or the Director of Student Standards.

**Lodging Complaints**

The following groups or individuals may lodge a complaint in regard to this policy:

- Any student organization as a group.
- Any individual member of a student organization.
- Any pledge/associate member of a student organization.
- Any probationary student organization as a group.
- Any probationary member.
- Advisor of a student organization.
- Alumni of a student organization.
- Any individual affiliated with the university.

**Sanctions**

Sanctions will be in line with the University Judicial Code. In cases of violations, the operations of the organizations/group will be reviewed by the Director of Student Standards and the national organization may be involved where applicable. A statement of expectations and guidelines will be developed for the organization to follow. Official warnings for minor violations, in cases where no previous disciplinary record is indicated, may be issued by the Director of Student Standards.

**Please Note:**

Any student who participates in hazing is subject to the University Judicial system and may be suspended or expelled from the university. Hazing is a criminal offense. Any student who participates in hazing may be arrested and prosecuted. Convictions may result in applicable penalty under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code.