

# THE STATE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW YORK

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Campus Presidents April 27, 2004  
**FROM:** Robert L. King *[Signature]*  
**SUBJECT:** Recommended SUNY Policies on Student Code of Conduct

*Robert L. King*  
Chancellor

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In April 2003, I shared with you a number of concerns regarding hazing, excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages and other misconduct by students. In my memo, I outlined four possible approaches to address these issues. At the Presidents' meeting in June 2003, I asked President Hefner to work with the Realigning for Excellence Advisory Council to review each approach and prepare a set of recommendations to advance our agenda in these areas.

The Realigning for Excellence Advisory Council worked with representatives from the Council of Chief Student Affairs Administrators, and the Office of University Life to develop a series of recommendations. Those recommendations have been reviewed and discussed with members of System Administration staff, including Counsel's Office and Dr. Betty Capaldi. After much deliberation, I am pleased to accept the recommendations of the Realigning for Excellence Advisory Council. The message we send is a strong one, and it signals our commitment to high academic and behavioral standards. The recommendations that I have accepted are outlined below:

- Each campus will develop a specific, written plan to ensure students receive and positively affirm the campus's Student Code of Conduct. Campuses may choose an implementation plan that best suits their needs, provided it contains an affirmation statement which will be completed by each student prior to being allowed to attend classes.
- The Student Code of Conduct at each campus should specifically address inappropriate behaviors associated with the abuse of alcohol and other substances. The Student Code of Conduct should clearly identify the types of actions that may be taken by campus authorities in response to these behaviors. Examples of behaviors that are detrimental to the learning environment and/or damaging to the reputation of the institution should be identified within the Student Code of Conduct. Further, each campus should review their judicial sanctions regarding repeat offenders and if appropriate, strengthen those sanctions.

- Each campus will include appropriate wording in its Student Code of Conduct to permit campus judicial action for inappropriate student conduct at off-campus locations, whenever the student's conduct adversely affects the campus community or undermines the interests and/or mission of the institution.
- Each campus will develop a "permanent transcript notation" policy that addresses hazing and other serious violations of the student conduct code, especially conduct which leads to the death or serious physical injury to another person. Further, students found responsible for such violations shall not receive credit for the semester in which the suspension or expulsion occurred, and will be liable for all tuition and fees for that semester.
- Copies of written policy must be submitted to Ed Engelbride, Room N530 at SUNY System Administration.

High expectations combined with strong and consistent enforcement are bookends in a comprehensive approach to positively impact student behavior. Prevention, education, and intervention must be added to the overall campus strategy to be truly effective. It is my strong belief that by implementing the above measures, we will be able to strengthen our efforts regarding inappropriate student behavior and send an even stronger message regarding our stance against hazing.

Copy: Senior Staff  
Council of Chief Student Affairs Administrators