

MEMORANDUM

TO: Campus Presidents

April 18, 2003

FROM: Robert L. King

SUBJECT: Hazing and Binge Drinking

As many of you are aware, I have been concerned about matters related to the above because of incidents on a number of our campuses over the last several years. At our June Presidents' Meeting, I would like to take a few minutes to discuss possible approaches to these issues. My thoughts follow:

1. All of your campuses are required to have a Code of Conduct. While there is no reason why individual signing to acknowledge a Code strengthens our legal position reference enforceability, I believe it would be symbolically important to have all entering freshman sign a document acknowledging their understanding of the Code, agreeing to live up to its requirements, and recognizing the consequences of not doing so.
2. I would like to see consistency in language related to binge drinking, for example..."behavior particularly related to alcohol that is detrimental to the learning environment, reputation of the school, and/or resulting in death or injury."
3. I suggest that the Code apply to behavior off campus, as well as on campus, and that it apply to students whether they are acting individually or as part of a group, whether that group be formal or recognized.
4. I would like to see sanctions strengthened to include dismissal from one campus to be System-wide in nature, and also that there be loss of previously earned academic credits. It is my hope that students' behavior might be modified if they understand the seriousness of penalties they might incur.

As indicate, I would like this to be a discussion subject at our June meeting and ask that it is put on the agenda. In the meantime, if your have thoughts on the matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Copy: Dick Miller
Ed Engelbride
Marti Ellerman