UNIVERSITY POLICY
HAZING POLICY

POLICY
Slippery Rock University believes in promoting healthy, safe, and balanced lifestyles. Student organizations and athletic teams can play a vital role in this process, and can provide transformative opportunities for friendship, leadership, and personal growth and discovery. Hazing of any kind is antithetical to these goals; therefore, Slippery Rock University prohibits hazing activities, whether by an individual or an organization.

HAZING ACTIVITIES
This policy prohibits the hazing of applicants for membership in student organizations; persons who are already members of organizations; or any other student for any other purpose. Slippery Rock University recognizes that the list below constitutes a non-exclusive list of activities that are considered hazing:

1. Psychological hazing, which is defined as any act which is likely to: (a) compromise the dignity of another; (b) cause embarrassment or shame to another; (c) cause another to be the object of malicious amusement or ridicule; (d) or cause psychological harm or substantial emotional strain.
3. Line-ups of new members/recruits, or grilling individuals or groups with questions of any kind.
4. Deception prior to the end of an initiation process to convince a new member that he or she will not complete initiation/training.
5. (Non)Members told to do anything exclusively for the entertainment of the organization members.
6. Forcing, coercing, or permitting students to disrupt scheduled classes, public forums, or other facets of the University’s academic programs such as creating activities that are so time consuming that students cannot go to class, do homework, sleep, etc.
7. Any form of obtaining signatures of members or alumni (i.e. lists, on paddles, on balloons, etc...) or obtaining handshakes/greetings/phone calls.
8. All forms of physical activity not a part of an organized athletic contest and not specifically directed toward constructive work (push-ups, sit-ups, morning walks, calisthenics, etc.). No one truly knows the physical limitations of individuals and the safety of our students must always come first.
9. The application of foreign substances to the body, such as throwing food, spraying water of any temperature, etc.
10. Quests, treasure hunts, or scavenger hunts that involve violations of the law, indecent or salacious activities, or public humiliation.
11. Activities which result in illegal activity, new member ditches, kidnaps, unity walks, blindfolding, etc.
12. Forcing, coercing, or permitting students to be deprived of sufficient sleep. (Eight consecutive hours per day is the required standard.)
13. Any paddling, swatting, or individual or collective spanking.
14. Personal errands run by new members for returning organization members.
15. Assigning pranks such as stealing, painting objects, or harassing another team/organization. Depriving students access to their residence hall rooms such as taking their keys, making them spend the night in another's rooms or at a house, etc.
16. Not providing decent and edible food (i.e. no unusual combinations or preparation, colored foods, raw food, strange combination shakes, etc.).
17. Depriving student access to means of maintaining a normal schedule of bodily cleanliness (including a minimum of one shower per day).
18. Forcing, coercing or permitting students to eat or drink foreign or unusual substances such as raw meat, salt water, onion, hot peppers, baby food, etc.
19. Forced nudity and/or forcing, allowing or suggesting that students dress in an embarrassing and/or degrading manner.
20. Forcing, coercing, allowing, suggesting, or permitting students to drink excessive amounts of alcohol.
21. Coerced branding/Tattooing any part of the body, whether voluntary or involuntary.
22. Forcing, coercing or permitting students to disrupt the operation of University Facilities.
23. Any form of punishment/and or demerit system is prohibited.
24. Any activity or ritual that involves the abuse or mistreatment of a human or animal.

RATIONALE

Consistent with the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, 18 Pa.C.S. § 2801 et seq., hazing is defined as follows:

A person commits the offense of hazing if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a student, applicant or admitted individual into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing the membership or status of a student, applicant or admitted individual in an organization, causes, coerces or forces a student, applicant or admitted individual to do any of the following:

1) Violate federal or state criminal law;
2) Consume any food, drink, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance that subjects the student, applicant or admitted individual to a risk of emotional or physical harm;
3) Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements;
4) Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment;
5) Endure brutality of a sexual nature; and
6) Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the student, applicant or admitted individual.

The definition of hazing does not include reasonable and customary athletic, law enforcement or military training, contests, competitions or events.

Hazing is also a crime and constitutes a summary offense. If the hazing results in or creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to a student, applicant or admitted individual, it is a misdemeanor of the third degree. Hazing that results in serious bodily injury or death to a student, applicant or admitted individual where an person acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of a student, applicant or admitted individual or the person causes, coerces or forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the student, applicant or admitted individual is considered aggravated hazing and is a felony of the third degree.
The university and organizations are subject to criminal penalties for intentionally, knowingly and recklessly promoting or facilitating hazing or aggravated hazing.

Consent is not a defense to a criminal charge of hazing or a charge under the university’s conduct code. The sanctioning or approval of the conduct by the university is not a defense to a criminal charge of hazing or a charge under the university’s conduct code.

Organizations are defined as: A fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, club or service, social or similar group, whose members are primarily minors, students or alumni of the organization, or the university.

PROCEDURE
Any University staff member, faculty, or student observing a violation of this policy should inform University Police and/or the Office of Student Conduct.

SANCTIONS (CONSEQUENCES)
Students violating this policy may face sanctions including fines, the withholding of a diploma or transcript pending compliance with rules or pending compliance with rules or payment of fines, probation, suspension, dismissal or expulsion. Organizations violating this policy may face fines, rescission of permission to operate on campus or other school property and rescission of permission to operate under the sanction or recognition of the university. Organizations found responsible for hazing through the judicial process will be published on the University website for a period of no more than five years.

Hazing is also a criminal penalty. Any student who participates in hazing may be arrested and prosecuted. Conviction may result in jail term of one year in addition to any other applicable penalty under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code.

SCOPE
This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff and visitors to the campus. This policy prohibits hazing on or off campus.

RESPONSIBILITY
Responsibility for implementation of this policy is a campus wide effort involving the Offices of Student Conduct (724-738-4985), Center for Service, Involvement and Leadership (724-738-2092) and the University Police (724-738-3333) where applicable.

Approved by University Cabinet: December 10, 2018