

## **Update to STU-00 Definition of Hazing**

### **Issue:**

In compliance with the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA), work is being done to update three different policies (STU-00, STU-01, and UA-16). Work on updating all three policies was approved to move forward by the Policy Executive Committee during our first meeting on March 6, 2024. One of the policies that needed a substantial update was *STU-00, Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct*, specifically the definition found in *Part II Responsibilities, Section C: Personal Misconduct, Number 19: Hazing*. Changes must be in place by June 23, 2025 to meet the July 1 deadline for implementation.

### **Process:**

- Spring 2025 – January: As part of IU's work to comply with the expectations in the Stop Campus Hazing Act, the IUB Hazing Coalition developed this updated definition with deep review. Coalition includes students, faculty, and staff. This is in alignment with both the federal definition in the Stop Campus Hazing Act, (SCHA) and the Indiana state law definition.
- February 2025 - The definition was then shared with the smaller group that is focused on implementation of the SCHA, who approved it. This includes members from Public Safety, Student Affairs at IUB and IUI, Student Success, General Counsels office, and the Office of Institutional Equity.
- March 10, 2025 - The Student Affairs leads across all IU campuses then reviewed and approved it.
- March 27, 2025 - It was then shared, per process, with the University Faculty Council Student Affairs Committee for review and approval. It was unanimously approved.
- April 4, 2025 – to UFC Executive for review

### **Redlined Version:**

Hazing is defined as any conduct ~~or threats of conduct~~ that subjects another individual ~~to a risk of physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the individual.~~ harm greater than a reasonable risk of group participation, in the course of initiation into, ~~an affiliation with~~, or the maintenance of membership in a team, group, or organization. as a condition of association with a team, group or organization, ~~-. Hazing can occur~~ regardless of the individual's consent or lack of consent. This behavior includes, but is not limited to,

direct or indirect written, verbal, physical or electronic actions or inactions. ~~Both individual students and student organizations, including fraternities and sororities, may be disciplined for acts of hazing.~~

### **Clean Definition with Changes Incorporated:**

Hazing is defined as any conduct that subjects another individual to a risk of physical or psychological harm greater than a reasonable risk of group participation, in the course of initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a team, group, or organization. Hazing can occur regardless of the individual's consent or lack of consent. This behavior includes, but is not limited to, direct or indirect written, verbal, physical or electronic actions or inactions.

### **Rationale for Changes:**

- “Threats of conduct” in the original definition is conduct, therefore, it’s redundant and was removed. A threat is a violation of the student code already under “Verbal abuse of another individual (STU-00, Part II, Letter C, number 21)
- “Mentally, emotionally” are removed and only “psychological” remains, as mental and emotional abuse are forms of psychological abuse.
- “Anything” was considered too vague – consider a football team where exercise is critical to engagement with the organization. Extreme exercise and abuse is different than what is required for full participation. Therefore, it was removed.
- “may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate” was removed as it is covered in other sections as disallowed behavior in the Student Code (Part II, Letter C, numbers 12-18; 21-23)
- The full section of the Student Code indicates that all behavioral conduct expectations apply to both individuals and student organizations. (STU-00, Part II, Letter C, introduction – first line), so the last line of the original definition was removed as it is deemed redundant.
- The call out for fraternities and sororities is also redundant, as they are student organizations as outlined in STU-01 (STU-01, number 1, “Self-Governed Student Organizations”).
- “an affiliation with” was added to the new definition to align with the federal definition of hazing.

### **Next Steps:**

- Review and approval by UFC at the April meeting
- Post for Review Period and collect feedback; adjust if necessary.
- Review and approval by PEC