ANTI-HAZING POLICY

The act of hazing is a violation of UMSL’s Student Conduct Code and Missouri State Law. The University of Missouri-St. Louis does not condone nor tolerate hazing of any type by any organization, or by an individual against another individual. The following Missouri State statues define hazing in an educational institution and the penalties associated with individuals caught in the act of hazing.

Missouri State Law/Statutes on Hazing

578.360. As used in sections 578.360 to 578.365, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms mean:

1. “Educational institution,” a public or private college or university;

2. “Hazing,” a willful act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, directed against a student or a prospective member of an organization operating under the sanction of an educational institution, that recklessly endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or prospective member for the organization for the purpose of initiation or admission into or continued membership in any such organization to the extent that such person is knowingly placed at probable risk of the loss of life or probable bodily or psychological harm. Acts of hazing shall include:

   a. Any activity which recklessly endangers the physical health or safety of the student or prospective member, including but not limited to physical brutality, whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance or forced smoking or chewing of tobacco products; or

   b. Any activity which recklessly endangers the mental health of the student or prospective member, including but not limited to sleep deprivation, physical confinement, or other extreme stress-inducing activity; or

   c. Any activity that requires the student or prospective member to perform a duty or task which involves a violation of the criminal law of this state or any political subdivision in this state.

Colleges and universities to have written policy prohibiting hazing

578.365. Each educational institution in this state shall adopt a written policy prohibiting hazing by any organization operating under the sanction of the institution.

Hazing—consent not a defense—penalties.

578.365.

1. A person commits the crime of hazing if he knowingly participates in or causes hazing, as it is defined in section 578.360.

2. Hazing is a class A misdemeanor, unless the act creates a substantial risk to the life of the student or prospective member, in which case it is a class C felony.
3. Nothing in sections 578.360 to 578.365 shall be interpreted as creating a new private cause of action against any educational institution.

4. Consent is not a defense to hazing. Section 565.080 does not apply to hazing cases or to homicide cases arising out of hazing activity.

In addition to Missouri State Law, UMSL also has accepted and recognizes the definition of hazing by the Fraternity Executive Association as any intentional action taken or situation created, whether on or off University premises, that produces mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. This includes, but is not limited to: paddling in any form, creation of excessive fatigue, physical or psychological shocks, wearing apparel in public stunts and buffoonery, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, involuntary labor, or any activity not consistent with the University Of Missouri Board Of Curators Standard Of Student Conduct.

The Office of Student Life will investigate any incident in which a charge of hazing has been made. University recognition may be temporarily withdrawn pending hearings and due process procedures.

Should it be determined that a student organization or any of its members is guilty of hazing as previously defined, university sanctions may include but are not limited to:

1) Automatic and indefinite suspension of campus recognition with an accompanying loss of all campus privileges, (i.e. use of facilities, student services, etc.)
2) Disciplinary action against those members involved in the incident(s) including suspension or expulsion from the University.

IMPLEMENTATION:
Each organization president, or equivalent officer, is required to read the University’s Policy on Hazing at the first regular meeting that he/she presides after taking office.

I have read the University of Missouri – St. Louis Hazing Policy to the active members at a regularly scheduled meeting of our organization. As President, I assume responsibility for and attest to my organization’s compliance with this policy.

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
Student President’s Signature                  Student President’s Printed Name

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
Student Organization Name                      Date