

# BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

1. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Code and Handbook Revision, Hazing

**MEETING DATE:** June 12-13, 2025 Quarterly Meeting

**2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

At the end of 2024, Congress enacted the Stop Campus Hazing Act (“the Act”), which amends section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and renames the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act as the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act. The Act requires institutions of higher education that participate in federal student aid programs to report hazing incidents as defined by the Act and implement anti-hazing policies and hazing prevention and awareness programs.

A working group of representatives from the institutions and University Policy Department convened to collaborate on these programs and review the Board of Regents Code and Handbook for any recommended revisions. The proposed revisions presented today are recommended by that working group.

- The Code currently provides a definition of “acts of hazing” for systemwide purposes related to faculty and student disciplinary rules and procedures. The proposed revisions to the Code incorporate the federal and state law definitions of “hazing” as well as the proposed updated definition of “hazing” discussed below. Title 2, Chapter 6, Section 6.2.1(y) (faculty except DRI); Title 2, Chapter 8, Section 8.3.2(s) (members of the DRI); Title 2, Chapter 10, Section 10.2.1(aa) (students).
- The University Police Department annually presents a Clery report to the Board pursuant to a federal requirement. The proposed revisions to the Handbook, Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 12, update the name of the “Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act” to the new name, the “Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act.”
- The Handbook currently provides general policies regulating students and student government, including a prohibition of hazing. Title 4, Chapter 20, Section B, Section 6. The proposed revisions to this section of the Handbook incorporate the federal definition of “hazing,” as well as examples of “hazing” recommended by the working group.

The proposed revisions were circulated to the Chancellor, each System institution President, Faculty Senate Chairs, and Student Body Presidents for review and comment at least 30 days before the meeting. See NSHE Code Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.3.3(a). (“At least 30 calendar days before consideration by the Board, proposed amendments shall be circulated to the Chancellor, each System institution President and each Senate for review and comment.”).

**3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Vice Chancellor and Chief General Counsel James Martines requests approval of revisions to the NSHE Code, Title 2, Chapter 6, Section 6.2.1(y) (faculty except DRI); Title 2, Chapter 8, Section 8.3.2(s) (members of the DRI); Title 2, Chapter 10, Section 10.2.1(aa) (students); the NSHE Handbook Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 12 (Clery reporting); and the NSHE Handbook Title 4, Chapter 20, Section A, Section 6 (general policies regulating students and student government).

**4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

The federal Stop Campus Hazing Act requires updated policies and reporting.

**5. CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:**

- Access (Increase access to higher education)
- Success (Improve student success)
- Close Institutional Performance Gaps
- Workforce (Meet workforce needs in Nevada)
- Research (Increase solutions-focused research)
- Coordination, Accountability, and Transparency (Ensure system coordination, accountability, and transparency)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

**6. INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL**

Alignment with federal law and prevention of hazing support improving student access and success.

**7. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

The proposed changes align with federal law and improve hazing reporting and prevention.  
The updated definition of hazing is designed to curb hazing and protect students.

**8. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None have been proposed.

**9. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:**

Miss the federal deadline.

**10. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR’S OFFICE:**

The Chancellor’s Office supports these revisions as proposed.

**11. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- X Amends Current Board Policy: Title 2, Chapter 6, Section 6.2.1(y) (faculty except DRI);  
Title 2, Chapter 8, Section 8.3.2(s) (members of the DRI);  
Title 2, Chapter 10, Section 10.2.1(aa) (students);  
Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 12 (Clery reporting); and  
Title 4, Chapter 20, Section A, Section 6 (general policies regulating students and student government)
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No x \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK**  
**TITLE 2, CHAPTER 6, SECTION 6.2.1(y)**

Rules and Disciplinary Procedures for Faculty Except DRI

Additions appear in ***boldface italics***; deletions are ~~[stricken and bracketed]~~

**Section 6.2 Cause**

**6.2.1 Prohibited Activity.** The following conduct, being incompatible with the purposes of an academic community, is prohibited for all members of the faculty of the System, shall constitute cause for discipline and may lead to the procedures and disciplinary sanctions established in this Chapter of the Nevada System of Higher Education Code.

....

(y) Acts of hazing~~[.Hazing]~~, ***as defined in section 485(f)(6)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Stop Campus Hazing Act of 2024, 20 U.S.C. §1092, or Nevada Revised Statutes or NSHE and institutional policies and procedures*** ~~[is defined as any method of initiation into or affiliation with the university or community college community, a student organization, a sports team, an academic association, or other group engaged in by an individual that intentionally or recklessly endangers another individual];~~

....

**POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK**  
**TITLE 2, CHAPTER 8, SECTION 8.3.2(s)**  
Rules and Disciplinary Procedures for Members of the Desert Research  
Institute (DRI)

Additions appear in ***boldface italics***; deletions are [~~stricken and bracketed~~]

**8.3.2 Additional Prohibited Activity.** The following conduct, being incompatible with the purposes of DRI, is prohibited for all employees of the DRI. This prohibited conduct shall constitute cause for discipline and may lead to the procedures and disciplinary sanctions established in this chapter of the NSHE Code.

....

(s) Acts of hazing~~[.Hazing]~~, ***as defined in section 485(f)(6)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Stop Campus Hazing Act of 2024, 20 U.S.C. §1092, or Nevada Revised Statutes or NSHE and institutional policies and procedures*** [~~is defined as any method of initiation into or affiliation with the university or community college community, a student organization, a sports team, an academic association, or other group engaged in by an individual that intentionally or recklessly endangers another individual~~].

....

**POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK**  
**TITLE 2, CHAPTER 10, SECTION 10.2.1(aa)**  
Rules and Disciplinary Procedures for Students of the Nevada System of  
Higher Education

Additions appear in ***boldface italics***; deletions are [~~stricken and bracketed~~]

**Section 10.2**        **Cause**

**10.2.1 Prohibited Conduct.**

The following conduct is prohibited:

....

(aa) Acts of hazing[~~-Hazing~~], ***as defined in section 485(f)(6)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Stop Campus Hazing Act of 2024, 20 U.S.C. §1092, or Nevada Revised Statutes or NSHE and institutional policies and procedures*** [~~is defined as any method of initiation into or affiliation with the university, college or community college community, a student organization, a sports team, an academic association, or other group engaged in by an individual that intentionally or recklessly endangers another individual~~].

....

**POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 12**  
NSHE Police and Security Forces

Additions appear in ***boldface italics***; deletions are ~~[stricken and bracketed]~~

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**Section 12. NSHE Police and Security Forces**

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12. Campus Reports and Compliance with the Jeanne Clery ***Campus Safety*** ~~[Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics]~~ Act

All NSHE police departments or public safety offices serving the institution must comply with federal requirements of the Jeanne Clery ***Campus Safety*** ~~[Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics]~~ Act, 20 U.S.C. §1092(f), 34 CFR 668.46 and shall provide widely disseminated monthly reports on campus crime to all members of the campus community through email or other mechanisms. Immediate warnings to the campus community shall be provided if the police departments have reliable information about dangerous individuals in the area or of crimes in the immediate vicinity of the institution that are not yet solved.

Available resources to assure compliance with the Act include, but are not limited to, the Handbook for Campus Security and Reporting (<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/handbook.pdf>).

**POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 20, SECTION A, SECTION 6**  
General Policies Regulating Students and Student Government  
Additions appear in ***boldface italics***; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

**Section 6. Hazing**

Hazing has no place within a community of scholars. The Board of Regents of the NSHE affirms its opposition to any form of hazing. NSHE institutions advocate civility in society and an adherence to the fundamental principles of honesty, integrity, respect, fairness, development of individual character, and sensitivity to the dignity of all persons. These principles should be fostered and nurtured in a broad spectrum of activities that yield social, intellectual and physical benefits. Therefore, hazing of any nature is unacceptable at any public institution of higher education in the State of Nevada.

1. No member or alumnus of the NSHE community acting as an individual or part of a group shall conduct or condone hazing activities.
2. Hazing is defined as any method of initiation into or prerequisite to becoming a member of the NSHE community, or any group associated therewith, engaged in by an individual that intentionally or recklessly endangers another individual. Any activity upon which the initiation into or affiliation with an organization or group is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be forced activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding. Hazing may occur on or off the premises of the organization and/or educational institution. Hazing is most often seen as an initiation rite into a student organization or group, but may occur in other situations.
3. Hazing activities may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. ***any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, a student organization or the NSHE community or any group associated therewith; and causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including—***

**(i) whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;**

**(ii) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;**

**(iii) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;**

**(iv) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;**

**(v) any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;**

**(vii) any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law;**

**(viii) any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law and/or willful destruction or removal of public or private property**

**(ix) Any physical activity, such as *paddling in any form* [~~whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of food, liquor, drugs or other substance~~] or any other brutal treatment or other forced physical activity that is likely to adversely affect the physical health of the person;**

~~[b.]~~**(x) Any situation which subjects the individual to extreme stress, such as [~~sleep deprivations,~~] forced exclusion from social contact, required participation in public stunts, or forced conduct which produces pain, physical discomfort, or adversely affects the mental health or dignity of an individual; [and]**

~~[c. Any expectations or commands that force individuals to engage in an illegal act and/or willful destruction or removal of public or private property.]~~

**(xi) Any acts of servitude, blindfolding, kidnapping or bondage, or abandonment;**

**(xii) Causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to witness or participate in indecent exposure;**

**(xiii) Any activity that adversely affects academic progress;**



***(xiv) Any mentally embarrassing, harassing, or ridiculing behavior to create psychological shock, to include but not limited to such activities as: Engaging in public stunts and buffoonery, morale degradation, humiliating games and activities, deception (lies, tricks, or dishonesty), compromising of moral or religious values, or verbal abuse;***

***(xv) Expecting certain items to always be in one's possession;***

***(xvi) Any action of collusion or inaction with a member or guest of the NSHE community or any group associated therewith that results in a student engaging in behaviors that violate the Code; and***

***(xvii) Any action or knowledge of the commission of an action that results in a minor being in physical possession of or possessing by consumption of alcohol or other drugs while in attendance at an organizational event.***

4. Each institution within NSHE shall develop clear procedures for dealing with hazing, requirements for reporting hazing, clear reporting lines for infractions, investigation procedures, and potential discipline. Each institution shall apply a reasonable person standard, and the discipline shall be proportionate to the infractions. All disciplinary actions or sanctions shall be congruent with Title 2, Chapter 6 or Chapter 10 of the NSHE Code and appropriate institutional bylaws ***or institutional student code of conduct***. Both individuals and organizations committing an offense under the anti-hazing policy may be found in violation and be subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions. ***An organization may be held accountable for the conduct of individuals in regards to hazing, with or without the permission of the organization as a whole.***

5. An allegation of hazing, reporting of a suspicion that hazing may have occurred, or a request for an investigation of hazing may be initiated by anyone. Campus policies shall designate the appropriate place and method of reporting. Each campus is encouraged to develop an educational program about the serious danger and risk involved in any hazing activity and the subsequent harm that can occur to both the individual subjected to hazing and those engaged in hazing.

6. Each campus shall develop procedures and policies to report cases of hazing that fall under Nevada Revised Statutes ***and section 485(f)(6)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Stop Campus Hazing Act of 2024, 20 U.S.C. §1092.***

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