

**Chapter VI****Student Activities and Conduct****Article I. Procedures for the Governance of Student Conduct**

## Section 1. General Principles

- A. Students shall be held individually responsible for maintaining standards of conduct which meet the requirements of decency, the behavior patterns of a democratic society, and the particular needs of this college community.
- B. The faculty of the College may make explicit these requirements by specific regulations to whatever extent it decides is necessary for the welfare of the college community.
- C. Social regulations of whatever origin should insure adequate consideration for the rights of individual students to privacy and the preservation of their individual dignity and comfort, and an atmosphere consistent with the basic educational purposes of the College.
- D. All members of the community have the responsibility for adherence to state, local, and federal laws.

## Section 2. The President of the College.

The President of the College shall have the authority, when there is just cause, to summarily suspend or expel a student from the College.

## Section 3. The Faculty

- A. The faculty shall have the power to take proper measures for the government and discipline of the students, and to suspend and expel offenders as may be deemed necessary.
- B. This authority may be delegated to a properly constituted committee, the faculty reserving the right of review. (Constitution, Article, V, Section 2.)

## Section 4. The Council on Student Affairs (11/10/2010)

- A. Except when otherwise expressly delegated, the Council on Student Affairs shall be charged with passing on all student discipline cases referred to it.
  - 1. The Council on Student Affairs may also establish disciplinary procedures and regulations and delegate its authority to administrative offices and/or committees where it deems such action appropriate. (See Chapter VI, Article III, Section 3B).

2. All decisions by the Council on Student Affairs on matters of student discipline shall be reported to and subject to review by the faculty as a whole.
- B. The Council on Student Affairs may also act on other matters referred to it, such as the selection of award winners and the review and revision of college policies on student activities and conduct.

#### Section 5. Living Group Regulations

- A. Residents of and visitors to college residence halls, Greek Life houses and other college supervised residences shall be subject to the supervision of the Dean of Students.
- B. Living groups of students may establish additional regulations which are not consistent with those established by other duly designated college committees or departments. Such regulations are subject to review by the Council on Student Affairs and may be enforced by living group councils, with any student retaining the right of appeal to the Council on Student Affairs.
- C. Authority is vested in the President of the College or a designee to excuse students from living in college residences or from eating in college dining halls (Constitution, By-Laws, Article VI, Section 1).

**Article II. Student Life Committee**

## Section 1. Purpose

- A. The Student Life Committee may review and recommend policies on any matter, which is not of a curricular or disciplinary nature, relating to student life at Whitman College.
- B. The committee has policy-making authority in those areas of student life where authority is not specifically delegated to another committee, person, or department by the Faculty Code or the President. If in reviewing a matter brought before it the committee determines that proper jurisdiction is elsewhere, the Committee will refer the matter there.

## Section 2. Membership

The Student Life Committee shall be composed of six students, three faculty members, the Dean of Students or a designee, the Associate Dean of Students, and the Provost and Dean of the Faculty or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

- A. The President of the College and the President of the Associated Students of Whitman College are *ex-officio*, non-voting members.
- B. The Executive Council of the Associated Students of Whitman College shall appoint three students each year for 2-year terms. No more than 1/3 of the students shall be representative of one social or living group, no more than 2/3 shall be of the same sex, and both Greeks and independents shall have at least 1/3 of the membership.
- C. One faculty member is elected each year by the faculty to a 3-year term. The faculty member holding the senior position as defined by the termination date of their position shall act as chair.

## Section 3. Procedures

Any recommendation or policy matter brought to a vote must pass by a majority of each of the three represented constituent groups present at the time.

Any policy decision made by the committee will be passed on to the appropriate department or organization for implementation.

**Article III. The Council on Student Affairs****Section 1. Purpose**

The Council on Student Affairs shall meet in order to hear and act upon any case involving alleged infractions of college regulations, referred to it by duly designated college groups or individuals. The council may also establish and revise student discipline procedures and act on other matters referred to it.

**Section 2. Membership**

The Council on Student Affairs shall be composed of four members of the faculty, five members of the student body, and the Dean of Students as chair.

- A. The faculty and student membership must have 2-2 and 3-2 gender balance, respectively. All members shall be voting members.
- B. Faculty members of the Council on Student Affairs shall be elected to 3-year staggered terms.

Each year the faculty shall elect from its body enough members to maintain Council membership of four faculty members and 2-2 gender balance.

- C. Three of the student members also serve 3-year staggered terms, each 3-year term beginning in the sophomore year of the new member. The Executive Council of the Associated Students of Whitman College shall appoint annually one sophomore member of ASWC to serve a 3-year term and shall appoint two members to serve 1-year terms during their senior year. A 3-2 gender balance must be maintained in the student appointments.

**Section 3. Procedures**

- A. When considering cases of infractions of college regulations, the Council on Student Affairs shall safeguard the rights of an accused student, establish the framework of facts, rule on guilt or innocence and assign sanctions for proven violations of college policy. In all cases the accused will be presumed innocent until proven guilty.
- B. In carrying out these procedures, and in delegating its authority to other college groups, the Council shall assure that confidentiality is maintained and that the following rights are respected:
  - 1. The student shall be informed in writing of the nature of the charges and shall be given time to prepare a defense.
  - 2. The student shall have the right to be assisted by an adviser of the student's choice who is a member of the college community.
  - 3. The student shall be given the opportunity to speak, present evidence and present witnesses on the student's own behalf.

4. The student shall be given the opportunity to submit in writing any questions that the student would like of any witness.

#### Section 4. Appeals

A decision by the Council on Student Affairs may be appealed by a student who is the subject of disciplinary action by the council when:

- A. The student feels that there has been a procedural error in the discipline process by the Council, or
- B. Evidence or information relevant to the case did not arise during the hearing.

#### Section 5. Disciplinary Actions

- A. The severity of any disciplinary action shall depend not only on the seriousness of any individual violation of good conduct but also on the complete record of campus citizenship of the student involved.

- B. Sanctions (05/06/2020)

The severity of any disciplinary action shall depend not only on the seriousness of any individual violation, but also on the complete record of campus citizenship of the student involved. The categories of official disciplinary action are:

1. Dismissal or Expulsion – Permanent termination of student status
2. Suspension – Removal from the College for a definite period of time with reinstatement dependent upon the fulfillment of stipulated conditions.
3. Conduct Probation – The Council on Student Affairs, the Dean of Students, or the Student Conduct Administrator will set the terms of probation; any further violation of campus policies while on probation may result in a more severe penalty.
4. Other Official Action – This may include verbal warning, written warning, loss of privileges, restitution of damages, prohibition of participation in commencement exercises, withdrawal of permission to re-enroll, or other action appropriate to the offense.
5. The College reserves the right to impose additional conditions on a sanction of probation or suspension.

**Article IV. Student Organizations****Section 1. Authorization of Student Organizations**

- A. In order to become an authorized Whitman College student organization a petition for recognition must be initiated with the Dean of Students or a designee.
- B. No honor society or student social organization, including fraternities and sororities, may be recognized without permission of the faculty.
  - 1. Application for the establishment of such an organization must be accompanied by a copy of the proposed constitution and a recommendation from the Dean of Students for favorable or unfavorable action.
  - 2. Upon the approval of the constitution the faculty will grant permission for the establishment of the organization.
- C. All other student organizations such as those affiliated with an academic department, service organization, or a special interest group, must be recognized by the Dean of Students or a designee.
- D. No change in the constitution of any organization may be made without permission of the Dean of Students. Major changes may require reapplication for recognition through established procedures.
- E. No student social organization at Whitman College shall be permitted to refuse membership to any otherwise qualified candidate, or discriminate against any member, on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other basis prohibited by applicable federal, state, or local laws.
- F. The faculty reserves the right to withdraw its authorization from any organization if in its judgment the well-being of the College requires such action.

**Section 2. Supervision of Student Organizations**

Student organizations and activities shall be subject to the supervision of the Dean of Students.

- A. Regulations for organizations and activities shall be established by the Dean of Students except in areas where authority is granted by the Board of Trustees or where legislation is specifically provided for by the faculty.
- B. Establishment of these regulations may be wholly or partly delegated to properly constituted student organizations or committees, subject to the approval of the Dean of Students.

**Section 3. General Regulations**

- A. Every organization must furnish a current list of its officers and a copy of its constitution and by-laws to the Dean of Students; maintain a good standard of scholarship and conduct among its members; and have a college adviser appointed by the President of the College on recommendation of the Dean of Students and nomination by the student group concerned.
- B. Membership in student organizations shall be limited to regular students enrolled in the College, except insofar as the constitutions of the respective organizations may provide for honorary and other categories of membership.
- C. Social events and other activities held in off-campus locations will not normally be considered to be social events sponsored by the College. The responsibility for insuring proper conduct at such events shall rest entirely with the group itself.
- D. Activities conducted on the campus by student organizations are subject to college regulations concerning organizations and individual student behavior.

Student or campus organizations that wish to use college-owned facilities for their activities must reserve the facilities according to appropriate procedures.

- 1. The reservation must indicate who the responsible individual/s will be in case of damage to college property or other problems stemming from the activity.
  - 2. In instances where college property or buildings are being used by students for such activities, the College reserves the right to require the presence of custodial personnel such as firefighters, janitors, residence hall staff, security personnel, etc.
- E. No publications may be issued by students, classes, or organizations in the name of the College without permission of the faculty.
  - F. Each student organization must be free of debt contracted as a result of current operations by the end of each college fiscal year. An organization in debt at the end of a fiscal year may be placed on probation for one year.
    - 1. During such probation the organization shall not contract further current indebtedness and shall remove all current financial obligations.
    - 2. If, at the end of the year of probation, the indebtedness has not been removed, college authorization for the organization may be withdrawn.

#### Section 4. Associated Students of Whitman College

All regular students in the College are required to become members of the Associated Students of Whitman College. All other students are entitled to the privilege of membership upon payment of the student body fee.

Section 5. Social Fraternities and Sororities (Updated language without impact to policy changed from 05/04/2022)

- A. All of the regulations in the preceding sections of this Article apply to social fraternities and sororities.
- B. *It is the responsibility of each recognized social fraternity and sorority to comply with all college regulations.* (05/04/2022)
- C. In addition, the following regulations apply to fraternities and sororities:
  1. Each social fraternity and sorority must keep on file with the Dean of Students an accurate list of its members and officers.
  2. No social fraternity or sorority may pledge or initiate a student not enrolled as a regular student in the College. A first-year student may not be initiated into membership until the student has been enrolled for at least one semester as a regular student.
  3. Every social fraternity and sorority must have an adviser who is a member of the faculty. Faculty advisers shall be appointed by the President of the College upon recommendation of the Dean of Students and nomination by the student group concerned.
  4. Only students enrolled in the College or persons designated by the College may reside in Greek Life houses while classes are in session.
  5. Each Greek Life house must at all times be accessible for inspection by the Dean of Students, their designee, or the faculty adviser. (05/04/2022)
  6. All activities which are sponsored by recognized fraternities and sororities or which take place in Greek Life houses are subject to college regulations and to the control of the Dean of Students.



**Article V. Student Conduct****Section 1. General Regulations**

- A. A student may be subject to disciplinary action for conduct which seriously affects the student's suitability as a member of the academic community.
- B. From time to time various regulations and procedures, in addition to those in this article, may be established by authorized college groups or individuals, such as the Council on Student Affairs, the Student Life Committee, and the Dean of Students.

All such policies are regularly published in the "Whitman College Student Handbook."

- C. Failure to comply with the directions of college officials acting in performance of their duties is prohibited. (05/06/2020)

**Section 2. Forgery of Documents (05/06/2020)**

Forgery, alteration, or misuse of college documents, records, or identification is prohibited.

**Section 3. Disruption or Abuse of College Facilities and Activities**

- A. Obstruction of the educational environment or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, or other college activities, including its public service functions or other authorized activities on or off college premises, is prohibited. (05/06/2020)
- B. There shall be no physical abuse of any person on college-owned property or at college-sponsored or supervised functions, or conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any such person.
- C. Theft or damage to property of the College, a member of the College community, or others is prohibited. (05/06/2020)
- D. The educational rights of Whitman students are paramount. Every student has a right to conditions that are conducive to learning and favorable to the pursuit of higher education. Any conduct that infringes on these rights or disrupts the educational mission of the College is prohibited. (05/06/2020)

**Section 4. Visiting Speakers**

Any recognized student group may invite to the campus any speaker the group would like to hear. The appearance of any invited speaker does not imply any endorsement, either implicit or explicit, of the speaker's views by the institution, its faculty, its administration, or its governing boards. International speakers should be cleared through the Office of Human Resources.

Section 5. Hazing (05/06/2020)

The State of Washington defines hazing as “any method of initiation into a student organization or living group, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization or living group that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm, or serious mental or emotional harm, to any student or other person attending a public or private institution of higher education or other postsecondary educational institution in this state. No student, or other person in attendance at any public or private institution of higher education, or any other postsecondary educational institution, may conspire to engage in hazing or participate in hazing of another” (RCW 2B.10.900).

“Hazing is a misdemeanor and punishable under state law.” (RCW 9A.20.021).

In states that have laws against hazing, such as the State of Washington, the defendant(s) cannot use consent of the victim as a defense in a civil suit.

Consent is not a defense because a participant’s agreement to participate in a potentially hazardous activity may not be true consent when considering peer pressure and the desire to be part of a group.

The following behaviors and activities would constitute hazing on this campus. It is important to note that social pressure can constitute forced or requisite participation, even if the organizers claim that the activity is voluntary.

- Actions that recklessly or intentionally endanger the physical and mental health or safety of students.
- Forced, coerced, or required consumption of any food, liquor, drug, beverage, water, or any other substance.
- Forced, coerced, or required participation in physical activities, such as calisthenics, exercises, or so-called games.
- Forced or required conduct that could embarrass or adversely affect the dignity of the individual, including the performance of public stunts and activities.
- Forced exposure to the weather.
- Excessive fatigue resulting from sleep deprivation, physical activities, or exercise.
- Assignment of activities that would be illegal or unlawful, or might be morally offensive to new members.
- Physical brutality, including paddling; striking with fists, open hands, or objects; and branding.
- Kidnapping against a person’s will, and forced transportation or stranding of individuals.
- Verbal abuse, including “line-ups” and berating of individuals.
- Forced or required clean-up work or labor created for new members.
- Denial of sufficient time to study.
- Forced or required nudity or lewd behavior.

Any organization, association, or student living group that knowingly permits hazing is strictly liable for harm caused to persons or property resulting from hazing. If the organization, association, or student living group is a corporation whether for profit or nonprofit, the individual directors of the corporation may be held individually liable for damages.” (RCW 28B.10.901)

**Article VI. Recording and Reporting Student Conduct**

## Section 1. Freedom of Expression

Expressions by students of opinions in the classroom or in academic work connected with courses which reflect social or political viewpoints shall be considered as confidential and shall not be divulged to any investigating agency or person.

## Section 2. Official Conduct Records

Records of official actions related to the conduct and discipline of students shall be maintained by the Dean of Students. Inquiries relating to such conduct actions shall be directed to that office.

## Section 3. Notations of Suspension or Dismissal

Notations of suspension or dismissal for reason of conduct shall be made on the student's permanent academic record.

- A. On completion of the terms of suspension, the notation on the student's permanent record shall be expunged, and thereafter no further indication of the action shall appear on such record.
- B. Notations concerning dismissal shall not be expunged from the permanent record.