

Connecticut State University System

Developing a State of Minds

BR#05-14



RESOLUTION

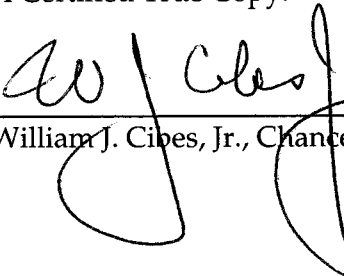
concerning

TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

April 1, 2005

- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees adopted the Connecticut State University Student Code of Conduct to provide clear guidelines for student behavior and for their effective enforcement at each of the universities that comprise the Connecticut State University System, and
- WHEREAS, The Code of Conduct need not replicate legal provisions in order to assure students their due process and protect the universities from legal vulnerability, and
- WHEREAS, The Code's provisions must be clear and direct in order to be understandable by most students, and
- WHEREAS, Any effort to provide for clear and inclusive action can only maximize the usefulness of such a code, and
- WHEREAS, Operational experience serves to identify appropriate honing of the Code's provisions and enables the universities to identify practical considerations, therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That Board Resolution # 04-55, Part III, 3., 14., 18., is hereby amended as shown in the attachment to this resolution, to reflect a clearer and more direct Student Code of Conduct.

A Certified True Copy:



 William J. Cipes, Jr., Chancellor

Student Code of Conduct Revisions

Part III: Prohibited Conduct

3. Actual or threatened physical assault or abuse, threatening, intimidation, coercion, and any other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person or endangers one's own health or safety.
14. Use, possession or distribution of firearms, ammunition for firearms, other deadly weapons and dangerous instruments as defined in Section 53a-3 of the Connecticut General Statutes, fireworks, explosives, incendiary devices, dangerous chemicals or biological agents, except as expressly permitted by law and University regulations.
18. Gambling, as defined in Section 53-278a of the Connecticut General Statutes, on University premises.

ITEM

Revision of Student Code of Conduct – Prohibited Conduct

BACKGROUND

The Student Code of Conduct (BR#04-55) was revised and adopted by the Board at its meeting of October 2004 after a year of deliberations that began with an overview presentation and advice given by Attorney Brett Sokolow, a nationally recognized attorney who provides consultation on such matters. Additionally, input was sought from Board members, University Presidents, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs Vice Presidents, the System's Assistant Attorney General for and a variety of other constituents (campus judicial officers, police, and members of the Student Advisory Board). The result is a comprehensive document that provides clear and direct information to the student bodies of the universities that comprise the Connecticut State University System and allows the disciplinary officers to assure due process when enforcing campus behavior. After its adoption, the Code was duplicated and distributed on each of the university campuses beginning this past fall. By all reports, this document has proven to be helpful with only minor glitches.

ANALYSIS

One such glitch pertains to the citation of the appropriate sections of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). Specifically, relevant statutes are cited in the definitions of certain prohibited conduct: the possession of deadly weapons (defined in Section 53a-3 of CGS) and engagement in gambling (as defined in Section 53-278a of CGS). While such citations are appropriate, the Student Code of Conduct in its current form, goes further by suggesting that copies of these statutes will appear in the Appendix of the document.

The Vice Presidents of Student Affairs have noted that such citations are good enough – that copying the relevant statutes to be included in an appendix constitutes needless copying expenses and would also require annual review to assure that the printed update is the correct version word-for-word.

A second glitch was noted in the administration of the Student Code with respect to dangerous behavior. The Code currently prohibits "Actual or threatened physical assault or abuse, threatening, intimidation, coercion, and any other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person." This is the prohibition used when the health or safety of the accused him/herself is also threatened by such behavior. The Student Affairs Vice Presidents prefer greater clarity by directly prohibiting such behavior. Such directness and clarity is in keeping with the rest of the Student Code of Conduct.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the revision of Part III of the Student Code of Conduct to reflect such technical changes.