

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

West Virginia University and Regional Campuses

(WVU Board of Governors Policy #10)

Section 1. General.

- 1.1. Scope. — Policies, rules and regulations regarding student rights, responsibilities and conduct at West Virginia University and its Regional Campuses.
- 1.2. Authority. — W. Va. Code §18-26-8
- 1.3. Effective Date. – September 6, 2002

Section 2. Purpose.

- 2.1. Purpose - The purpose of these policies, rules and regulations includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (a) To establish a general policy on student life, including a statement on student rights and responsibilities, at West Virginia University and its Regional Campuses.
 - (b) To identify behavioral expectations of students and certain prohibited acts by students at West Virginia University and its Regional Campuses.
 - (c) To prescribe penalties and sanctions for such prohibited conduct.
 - (d) To define generally the powers, authority and duties to be exercised under the control of the Board of Governors, by the presidents of West Virginia University and its Regional Campuses. in applying these policies, rules and regulations.
 - (e) To prescribe disciplinary actions and proceedings to be taken in cases of the violations of these policies, rules and regulations.
- 2.2. Effective Date - These policies, rules and regulations are effective immediately inasmuch as they cover any general or emergency situation that might arise at West Virginia University and its Regional Campuses., and they supersede any existing policies, rules and regulations that are in conflict with these policies, rules, and regulations.
- 2.3. Filing Date - These policies, rules, and regulations were filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of West Virginia on the Seventh (7) day of August 1970.

Section 3 Definitions.

- 3.1. Board of Governors - The West Virginia University Board of Governors.
- 3.2. Institution or institutions - West Virginia University, Potomac State College of West Virginia University, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, West Virginia University at Parkersburg and any other branch of West Virginia University over which the Board of Governors shall have authority, responsibility or control.
- 3.3. President - The chief executive officer of each institution, whatever the title, whether responsible directly to the Board of Governors or through some other officer to the Board of Governors and shall include all those acting for or on behalf of such chief executive officer, at or by his/her discretion, or at or by the direction of the Board of Governors.
- 3.4. Property - Any property, whether owned, rented or otherwise held or used by the Board of Governors, by an institution or by the institutional community.
- 3.5. Activity - All or any operations conducted, sponsored, promoted, operated or otherwise engaged in by an institution, including, by way of illustration and not as limitation of the foregoing, classroom and course activities, recreational and cultural programs, maintenance or building programs, committee or other business activity, registration, advising, teaching, admissions, placement, disciplinary or routine office activity, research or service.
- 3.6. Facility - Any and all property of an institution used or usable in any activity of an institution.

- 3.7. Campus - All the property and facilities of any institution serving as the locus in quo of any activity of an institution.
- 3.8. Faculty - Those employees of the Board of Governors who are assigned to teaching or research or service functions at an institution, and who hold academic rank.
- 3.9. Staff - Those employees of the Board of Governors who are assigned to teaching or research or service functions at an institution, and who are not members of the faculty.
- 3.10. Student - Any person who has been admitted to an institution to pursue a course of study, research, or service, who is currently engaged in an institutionally sponsored activity, and who has some right or privilege to be on the campus or in the facilities of the institution, or to use the same, in connection with study, research, or service, or who yet has some right or privilege to receive some benefit or recognition or certification from the institution, under the rules, regulations, or policies of the Board of Governors or the institution.
- 3.11. Member of the institutional community - Any officer, administrator, faculty member, staff member, employee, student of or at an institution, member of the Board of Governors or an institutional Board of Advisors, as well as any person authorized to participate in an institutional activity at the time applicable.

Section 4. Policies Regarding Student Rights and Responsibilities.

- 4.1. The submission of an application for admission to an institution represents an optional and voluntary decision on the part of the prospective student to partake of the program and privileges offered by the institution pursuant to the policies, rules and regulations of the Board of Governors and the institution. Institutional approval of that application, in turn, represents the extension of a right or privilege to join the institutional community and to remain a part of it so long as the student fulfills the academic and the behavioral expectations that are set forth in the policies, rules and regulations of the Board of Trustees and the institution.
- 4.2. Freedom of expression and assembly - The student enjoys the essential freedoms of scholarship and inquiry central to all institutions of higher education. In exercising these freedoms the student has certain rights and responsibilities, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - (a) To have access to campus resources and facilities;
 - (b) To espouse causes;
 - (c) To inquire, discuss, listen to and evaluate;
 - (d) To listen to any person through the invitation of organizations recognized by the institution;
 - (e) To have a free and independent student press which adheres to the canons of responsible journalism;
 - (f) To not violate the rights of others in matters of expressions and assembly;
 - (g) To abide by policies, rules and regulations of the Board of Governors and the institution and federal, state, and local statutes and ordinances pertaining to freedom of expression and assembly.
- 4.3. Freedom of association - Students may organize whatever associations they deem desirable and are entitled to affiliate with any group or organization for which they meet membership qualifications. However, institutional recognition of student organizations shall be limited to those whose purposes comport with the educational mission of the institution.