

**RESOLUTION FOR CHANGES TO UNIVERSITY POLICIES
FOR STUDENT LIFE: INTERIM SUSPENSION POLICY**

WHEREAS, the University Student Conduct System is an educational tool with two main objectives: to hold students accountable for unacceptable behavior, and to Modify those behaviors deemed unacceptable by the university, and

WHEREAS, the University Student Conduct System strives to address unacceptable behavior in a manner that informs students and guides them toward a greater sense of personal responsibility, and more mature and ethical standards, and

WHEREAS, current university policy (contained in the Hokie Handbook) gives the university the authority to intermily suspend a student in order to protect persons and/or property, and

WHEREAS, the university is modifying current policy to allow for the immediate removal of students who may pose a risk to the safety of self, others, or property, and

WHEREAS, the amendment to this policy allows the student the choice to request an immediate review of the interim suspension decision, and

WHEREAS, language regarding medical withdrawal and ban from campus (other than from residential facilities) is removed because they are not part of the interim suspension process, and

WHEREAS, language was clarified to direct the determination of interim suspensions and the adjudication of interim suspension reviews solely to the associate vice president for student affairs or his/her designee,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Policy # 8300 Interim Suspension Policy be changed to the text as follows:

The university retains the authority to impose an interim (immediate) suspension if such action is necessary to preserve the safety of persons or property. In this instance, the students will be afforded an interim suspension hearing and the opportunity to show why their continued presence on campus does not constitute a threat to themselves, others, or property. The interim suspension hearing is separate from a formal student conduct hearing. A formal student conduct hearing will be provided as soon as possible. Students may be intermily suspended from the university or selected campus facilities with proper notice. The following steps explain the procedure for imposing an interim suspension:

1. When a situation, as defined above, occurs, the responding university official contacts the associate vice president for student affairs or his/her designee to assess the situation. If the situation is sufficiently serious, the associate vice president for student affairs or his/her designee will determine if an interim suspension is appropriate.
2. The student will be sent an interim suspension letter immediately which states that the student is either suspended from the university and/or banned from all or selected campus residential facilities until a formal student conduct hearing can be convened. The chief of police will be contacted to determine if a ban from campus is needed. Upon receipt of the interim suspension, if the student is on campus or in university facilities, the student will be escorted out of the facility and/or off campus by a Virginia Tech Police Officer.
3. The student can immediately request an interim suspension review to be conducted by the associate vice president for student affairs or his/her designee. The interim suspension letter will contain instructions on how to request a review. Those present at the meeting may include the responding university official and other witnesses as deemed appropriate by the associate vice president for student affairs. During the review, the student will be given an opportunity to demonstrate why his or her continued presence on campus does not constitute a threat to themselves, others or property. As part of the review, the student may be required to submit to an immediate medical/psychological evaluation. The evaluation will be coordinated by the director of the Cook Counseling Center or his/her designee.
4. The decision of the interim suspension review will be final. There will be no appeal. If the student does not request a review, the interim suspension and/or ban from campus residential facilities will remain in effect until the formal student conduct hearing is convened.
5. Interim suspension information will be shared with the Office of Student Conduct. That office will schedule, as soon as possible, a formal student conduct hearing to determine the final consequences of the initiating inappropriate behavior.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution for changes to University Policies for Student Life: Interim Suspension Policy be approved.

March 22, 2010