

## **RESOLUTION FOR CHANGES TO UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR STUDENT LIFE: EXPANSION OF THE DISORDERLY CONDUCT 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 policy (contained in the Hokie Handbook) addresses conduct that disrupts or interferes with the orderly functioning of the university and with the duties of university personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, the current disorderly conduct policy does not include behavior that impedes the conduct process once it has begun; and

**WHEREAS**, students, university personnel, and public/civil officials who initiate the conduct process against other students have been negatively impacted by attempts to interfere with the conduct process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Student Conduct staff have dealt with numerous attempts by students to hinder their conduct process to avoid consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, expanding the disorderly conduct policy to include this behavior will provide safeguards to students, university personnel, and public/civil officials who initiate the conduct process from undue interference and send a message to students that impeding the conduct process is unacceptable conduct.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Policy # 8300, Student Code of Conduct – Disorderly Conduct be expanded as follows:

### **Student Code of Conduct – Disorderly Conduct**

**Disorderly Conduct** Behavior that disturbs the peace, disrupts or interferes with the orderly functioning of the university, or interferes with the performance of the duties of university personnel or public/civil official. This includes interfering with the student conduct process. Interfering with the conduct process includes attempts at influencing, impeding, or interfering with a potential, actual, or past student conduct referral; or intimidating or coercing any person involved in such referral. This includes, but is not limited to: encouraging or influencing another person to commit an abuse of a university

conduct system, discouraging an individual's proper participation in, or use of, the university conduct process, or disrupting or interfering with the orderly process of a conduct proceeding.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

June 7, 2010