

Greek Life Policy on Hazing

The Chad Meredith Act

The Chad Meredith Act became law in Florida effective July 1, 2005. The law resulted from the drowning of University of Miami student Chad Meredith on November 5, 2001. Persons convicted of felony or misdemeanor hazing are subject to imprisonment.

Statement on Hazing

Bethune-Cookman University has always denounced acts of brutality and hazing during the intake process, and this statement serves to reaffirm that long-standing commitment...***HAZING IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN!***

For the guidance of all campus chapters authorized to conduct intake periods, the definition of hazing is as follows:

“Hazing” is any action taken or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes, including, but not limited to, initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of the University. “Hazing” includes, but is not limited to, pressuring or coercing the student into violating state or federal law, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student, and also includes any activity that would subject the student to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student.

In addition, late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities, and any other activities which are not consistent with policies of Bethune-Cookman University or which violate local, state or federal laws, are expressly forbidden. Anyone violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, and may also face criminal prosecution.

Cognizance and understanding of the above definition and the use of common sense in the carrying out of intake activities should be sufficient to guide campus chapters to avoid hazing violations. A good rule of thumb is: “IF IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT”.

Chapter members and advisors are responsible to see that the intake process follows steps prescribed by their respective national offices, within B-CU guidelines. No chapter or member is “*above the law*”.

All participants should be urged to remember that the intake process is designed to prepare new “sisters” and “brothers”, and hazing has no place in this important process.