



2020 – 2021

Student Handbook & Code of Student
Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct

www.savannahstate.edu

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FORWARD



The Division of Student Affairs is pleased to provide you with the 2020 – 2021 edition of the student handbook. This handbook is indicative of our commitment to a “student centered” philosophy that puts students at the heart of what we do as a University to promote success. The handbook serves as a resource for many important University matters, including institutional traditions, student activities, strategies that promote student development and learning, and the code of student rights, responsibilities, and Conduct. The handbook was developed through the cooperation of faculty, staff, students, the Division of Student Affairs, the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, and the President’s Administration. You are encouraged to become familiar with the information contained in this handbook as you begin your Savannah State University experience.

The handbook is intended to introduce students to their obligations and responsibilities as members of the University community and will supplement other Savannah State publications that more completely address all policies, procedures, and regulations for every area of the University. You are strongly encouraged to use the University’s Undergraduate General Catalog and other published documents in concert with this handbook. Together, these documents will help make you an informed, knowledgeable, and successful “Tiger”.

Finally, we wish you well in your academic, social, and personal pursuits. During your time at Savannah State University be sure to strike the right balance between academic and out of class activities. The quality of your experience depends on how well you accept the responsibility of undertaking these pursuits and other adult-life endeavors.

As a Savannah State University student, you will be afforded every opportunity to learn, grow, and develop. While the student and the University are partners in student learning and development, it is up to you to take advantage of all that is offered.

Have a great year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonita Bradley". The signature is stylized with large, looping letters.

Bonita Bradley
Dean of Students

ABOUT SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY

Savannah State University (SSU) is the oldest public historically black college or university in the state of Georgia and the oldest institution of higher learning in the city of Savannah. The school was established in 1890 as a result of the Second Morrill Land Grant Act, which mandated that southern and border-states develop land-grant colleges for black students. Later that year, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation creating the Georgia State Industrial College for Colored Youth, which served as Georgia's 1890 land-grant institution until 1947. A preliminary session of the Georgia State Industrial College was held in the Baxter Street School Building in Athens, Ga., before moving to Savannah in October 1891. Richard R. Wright, Sr., was appointed the first president of the institution in 1891, which opened with five faculty members and eight students.

The college awarded its first baccalaureate degree in 1898 to Richard R. Wright, Jr., the son of the founding president and ninth president of Wilberforce University. Cyrus G. Wiley of the class of 1902 was the first alumnus to become college president in 1921, the same year the first female students were admitted as residents on campus. In 1928, the college became a four-year, degree-granting institution, ending its high school and normal school programs.

Upon the creation of the University System of Georgia (USG) in 1932, the college became one of the first members of the system and its name was changed to Georgia State College. Its name changed again in 1950 to Savannah State College, and the institution received initial accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in 1955. The USG Board of Regents elevated the college to university status in 1996 and renamed the institution Savannah State University.

VISION

Savannah State University will become the institution of choice in our region, where students maximize their potential in a nurturing environment that embraces social and intellectual diversity. The university will create an efficient, student-centered culture responsive to the needs of its stakeholders, supportive of ideals and ethical verities, and loyal to its rich legacy and heritage.

MISSION

Savannah State University, the oldest public historically black university in the State of Georgia, develops productive members of a global society through high quality instruction, scholarship, research, service, and community involvement. The University fosters engaged learning and personal growth in a student-centered environment that celebrates the African American legacy while nurturing a diverse student body. Savannah State University offers graduate and undergraduate studies including nationally accredited programs in the liberal arts, the sciences and the professions.

SAVANNAH STATE “TIGER VALUES”

Mission Statement

The Savannah State University Office of Student Conduct challenges and supports students in making ethical and responsible decisions, upholding the principles of civility, integrity and accountability, in order to create a safe and secure educational environment for all students.

Savannah State University Tiger Values

These six core values exemplify what it means to be a Savannah State University Tiger! Your Code of Student Conduct applies to you at all times both on and off campus. Let’s all represent our University with the pride and dignity we all have as SSU Tigers!

INTEGRITY: Savannah State students exemplify honesty, honor and a respect for the truth in all of their dealings.

COMMUNITY: Savannah State students build and enhance their community. Savannah State students will be active and engaged citizens.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Savannah State students are just and equitable in their treatment of all members of the community and act to discourage and/or intervene to prevent unjust and inequitable behaviors.

RESPECT: Savannah State students show positive regard for each other, for property and for the community.

RESPONSIBILITY: Savannah State students are given and accept a high level of responsibility to self, to others and to the community.

TRADITION: Savannah State students recognize the importance of our traditions and the legacy we leave for future generations of students.

ACADEMIC SETTING AT THE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMICS. The Savannah State University Undergraduate Catalog provides academic information. A copy of the catalog may be viewed online at: <http://www.savannahstate.edu>. The Registrar’s Office publishes a schedule of courses that provides the time, place and the instructor of record. Information is also provided about registration, dropping and adding courses, and official withdrawal from the University, as well as program and degree information.

CLASSIFICATION. Students are classified on the basis of earned academic credit hours:

Freshman:	fewer than 30
Sophomore:	30 - 59
Junior:	60 - 89
Senior:	90 or more than credits

THE CO-CURRICULAR TRANSCRIPT. The purpose of the Co-Curricular Transcript is to help keep a written, cumulative record of student involvement at Savannah State University. The need for such a program is to encompass all volunteer work, community service, and service learning activities in a centralized and organized way via the Banner Student Information System. The intent of this program is to encourage more students to get involved in student activities, programs and civic duties. In return it will assist in student retention and support the overall mission of the Division of Student Affairs and Savannah State University. Students would enjoy having their entire academic as well as non- academic information on their official university transcript. As such, a Co-Curricular Transcript would be of value to students when

applying to graduate schools or professional positions in the future.

INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY. Savannah State University provides an intellectually diverse learning and living environment that enables students and all who come under its influence to become innovative and critical thinkers, problem solvers, and responsible citizens. Believing, as stated by the American Council of Education that “intellectual pluralism and academic freedom are central principles of American higher education,” the university supports the rights of faculty to academic freedom as set forth by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the principles of intellectual diversity as set forth in “Academic Rights and Responsibilities, a statement issued by the American Council on Education on behalf of 30 higher education organizations”. In the learning and living environment at Savannah State University, the rights and responsibilities of teachers, as well as the rights and responsibilities of students, are upheld and protected.

STUDENT ACADEMIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. In an environment that is free of intimidation or other disadvantage, students have the right to learn and inquire, including opportunities to express opinions, ideas, and/or ideologies that may be different from those of the teacher. At all times, students are expected to comport themselves in an orderly and respectful manner. To this end, the following specific rights exist for students:

1. It is the right of every student to know, at the beginning of each semester, all of the policies and procedures that will be used to determine his/her grade.
2. Students have the right to expect that teachers will demonstrate a mastery of their subject and that teachers will be open to discussions of varying points of view, perspectives, and/ or ideologies in a civil and collegial environment.
3. Students have the right to classes that are not used by teachers to propagate their personal views or to indoctrinate students.
4. When students believe their rights have been violated, they have the right to seek redress following established and published procedures that are available to all members of the university family. The goal of the university is to resolve conflicts at the lowest level. Students who believe that their academic rights have been violated should first seek redress via discussion with the offending party. If the offender is the teacher, the student should first discuss his/her discontent with the teacher, followed by the department chair, the dean, and the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs. Should satisfactory redress still not be achieved, the student should contact the University Compliance Officer to seek mediation or to file a formal complaint.
5. When/if students determine that the university is not honoring its commitment to intellectual diversity; they are obligated to report such to the Ombudsman’s Office.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR. Student classroom behavior is a growing concern to faculty and unfortunately more students engage in inappropriate behavior which is disruptive and/or threatening to the educational environment. Savannah State University takes seriously its commitment to fostering and maintaining an educational environment conducive to student learning and academic success. As such, the following disruptive classroom behavior (and in some instances other learning environments) policy is demonstration of the university’s high expectations that students govern their behavior and actions in the classroom setting responsibly and civilly.

Disruptive student behavior, for purposes of this policy, is defined as but not limited to, verbal or physical threats, repeated obscenities, unreasonable interference with class discussion, making/receiving personal phone calls, text messages or pages during class, excessive tardiness, leaving and entering class frequently in the absence of notice to instructor of illness or other extenuating circumstances, and persisting in disruptive personal conversations with other class members. Student behavior in a classroom or other learning environment includes on and off-campus locations, which disrupts the

educational process. In addition, it may also be considered disruptive behavior for a student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside the class.

The Office of Student Conduct encourages members of the university community to try to resolve problems informally whenever possible. When disruptive behavior occurs in the classroom, the instructor is encouraged to make reasonable effort to address the disruption with the student, preferably in private. Both the instructor and student may consult the Office of the Ombudsman or the Office of the Dean of Students to discuss ways to resolve the situation informally. Should the instructor elect to withdraw the disruptive student from a course, the following procedures should be followed. Where there is individual college or academic units' supplementary procedures to deal with disruptive student behavior, it should be consistent with this policy. Otherwise, this policy shall prevail with respect to disruptive behavior in the academic setting.

When disruptive behavior occurs:

1. The instructor will orally warn the student that his/her behavior is disruptive and that it is to cease immediately or the student will be removed from the class.
2. If the student fails to comply with instructor's verbal warning, the instructor may require the student to immediately leave the class for the remainder of the session. Student refusal to leave the class warrant summons of campus police to remove the student.
3. The instructor may immediately summon campus police to remove a student if the instructor believes the disruptive behavior poses an immediate threat to the safety of the instructor, the student, or any other students or persons. The instructor should immediately report the incident to the Office of Student Conduct for review with respect to whether the student's behavior poses an imminent threat to self or others such that he/she should be removed from the university, pending disciplinary proceedings.
4. If the instructor chooses to allow the student to return to the class and continue the course, the process is resolved.
5. If the instructor chooses to not allow the student to return to continue the course, he/she shall proceed with the university's Non-Academic Withdrawal for Administrative Cause process.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS & UNIVERSITY E-MAIL. Savannah State University does not routinely monitor electronic communications passing through campus servers. However, e-mails that pass through these servers may be automatically stored for a period of time. These e-mails may also be stored in other locations. The stored e-mails are subject to state and federal laws concerning law enforcement investigations, court discovery requests, University investigations, network diagnostics, and the Open Records Act. Similarly, while the University does not routinely monitor Web page visits, such data may be collected pursuant to the needs of law enforcement authorities. Also, such data may be automatically stored on individual computers. Accordingly, Savannah State University cannot and does not guarantee the privacy of any e-mail message or Internet session sent from or received at any campus computer.

STUDENT LIFE AT THE UNIVERSITY

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT. As a college student, you will spend approximately 15 hours per week in the classroom. Although the bulk of the remaining 153 hours is typically spent on personal matters and with peers, Savannah State University expects that students will devote a considerable amount of this time to academic pursuits. After all, the purpose of institutions of higher education is the pursuit of knowledge and truth and the development of critical, analytical, reflective, and other skills. The University also recognizes that important student development takes place

outside the classroom and laboratory settings. The University seeks to provide an environment where there are rich opportunities for interpersonal, social, cultural, and recreational activities. Inasmuch as Savannah State University will provide the facilities, resources, programs, and activities for these learning and developmental opportunities to occur, it is ultimately up to the student to take advantage of what is provided. The effectiveness of student life - the 153 hours or so spent outside of the classroom is directly linked to the extent to which students are engaged in quality co-curricular events, whether informally or formally and whether student-or University-provided. This section of the handbook describes certain areas of student life. Students are encouraged to become familiar with these areas, but also to create their own meaningful student life experiences.

TRADITIONS, CUSTOMS, & PRACTICES. The nature of a college or university is as much a matter of its culture – its traditions, ceremonies, customs, and practices – as its organizational structures, policies, and practices (Kuh and Associates, 1991). Savannah State University has a particularly rich culture. Through cultural perspectives, such as ceremonies, traditions, customs, and practices, one may better understand the uniqueness of the university. Below are certain cultural artifacts of Savannah State University. More exist and others will be created as the University continues to evolve. Embellish these cultural artifacts, but also get involved and participate in them.

ALMA MATER: “WE HAIL THEE S.S.U.”. The alma mater is the institution’s revered hymn. Through song, it conveys what is ideologically special about Savannah State University. Given its importance, during the alma mater, students and others are expected to stand and to be respectful by acting in civil and non-disruptive manners. Men are expected to remove their hats during the alma mater.

COMMENCEMENT. Savannah State University holds two formal commencement ceremonies each year in May and December for students scheduled to graduate at the end of the spring and fall semesters. Candidates for degrees may participate in the graduation ceremony only after they have completed all of their coursework, have received passing final grades, and have met all of the academic requirements pertinent to the degree to which they aspire. This includes satisfactory completion of theses and internship requirements. Candidates for degrees must show that they have met all general University requirements for such matters as registration, payment of fees (e.g., library, financial aid, housing) and special requirements of the college or school in which they have been registered. The University expressly reserves the right to deny participation in commencement and withhold the degree of any student who has completed all academic requirements, when disciplinary charges are pending or when there is a pending disciplinary action equivalent to suspension or expulsion. SSU makes every attempt to inform degree candidates prior to commencement if they have not met requirements for graduation. The inclusion of a candidate or the candidate’s name in matters related to commencement (including the commencement program) does not waive or change the requirements stated above and a candidate will be excluded from participation for failure to meet requirements when discovered. Please see the Office of Academic Affairs for additional information.

CLIFFORD E. HARDWICK III STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR AWARD. The Clifford E. Hardwick III Student Organization of the Year Award is meant to bring significant honor to a university-recognized student club or organization that has made an exceptional and distinctive impact on its members, the university, and the community. The University will recognize up to two clubs/organizations for the award annually. The club/organization selected for the award will be announced at the Outstanding Student Leadership & Service Recognition program and will have its name engraved on a plaque for permanent display at the University. The criteria for the award are available in the Division of Student Affairs.

CORONATION. Each academic year, students elect Mister and Miss Savannah State University (Mister SSU and Miss SSU) based on talent and certain qualifications as articulated in the Student Government Association Constitution. Traditionally, they are presented formally to the University community in a coronation, which is typically held during the week of Homecoming.

FOUNDER'S DAY CONVOCATION. The University formally celebrates its founding during the Founder's Day Convocation. Founder's Day Convocation, which is typically held during the month of November, honors the founding of Savannah State University and the people important to its beginnings.

HOMECOMING. Homecoming is celebrated at Savannah State University during the fall semester. A week-long series of events, Homecoming culminates with a fierce inter-collegiate football competition. During this spirited event, alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the university gather together for the parade, reunions, tailgate parties, and other fun activities.

HONORS DAY CONVOCATION. Savannah State University recognizes the scholastic achievements of its students throughout the academic year. One such time is the Honors Day Convocation, which is typically held during the spring semester. A formal ceremony, academic awards are presented to students meeting certain criteria.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. OBSERVANCE DAY PROGRAM. The University recognizes the humanitarian and social justice achievement of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through an observance day program. Typically held on the week prior to Dr. King's national holiday, students, faculty, staff, and community members gather to reflect upon how the leader shaped the Civil Rights movement.

MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST. Midnight Breakfast is an annual tradition when faculty, staff, and administrators volunteer to prepare and serve students breakfast items from 9:00 PM to midnight in the dining hall during the first day of final exams. The event is symbolic of the University's commitment to student excellence and a student-centered philosophy.

MISTER & MISS SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY (MR. SSU & MISS SSU). Mr. & Miss SSU serve as official ambassadors of the university and serve on the Student Government Association executive board. Their duties to the institution include representing the university at official functions as designated by the division of student affairs. All activities and appearances are organized by the advisor (full-time staff member(s) assigned by the vice president for student affairs).

NEW STUDENT WEEK OF WELCOME (WOW). At the beginning of each academic year, various University offices and program collaborate to present a New Student Welcome program. The program is designed to introduce new students and their families to the University. Typically, a three-day event, the program consists of formal and informal activities to indoctrinate students to the University's history, aims and purposes, current programs, and traditions.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADERSHIP & SERVICE RECOGNITION PROGRAM. Because student leadership, service, and volunteerism is explicitly valued and promoted at Savannah State University, a campus-wide Outstanding Student Leadership & Service Recognition Program is held in the spring. The purpose of the program is to publicly honor the outstanding contributions that students have made to the University, community, and the organizations in which students are involved. Any registered student club or organization can self-nominate and select up to two individuals to publicly honor for the outstanding contributions the individuals have made to the organization, community, or the University. Each registered student group is asked to complete and return the Outstanding Student Leadership & Service Recognition Form to the Division of Student Affairs.

PRESIDENT'S SECOND MILE AWARD. The President's Second Mile Award is meant to bring significant honor to a graduating senior who has exemplified stellar and meritorious character and values in both leadership and community service. The University will recognize up to two students. The recipient will be announced at commencement and will have his or her name engraved on a plaque for permanent display at the University. The criteria for the award are available in the Division of Student Affairs.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS. Students are free to reasonably join and associate with clubs and organization of their choosing, consistent with membership requirement of such groups. Inasmuch as students may join and associate with groups of their choosing, the university has developed certain requirements for membership. The university requires that in order to become a member of a student organization:

1. Each student must meet the academic requirements set forth by the respective organization, department, college, or the university; 2.0 GPA or higher for general membership; and possess and maintain a 2.5 GPA to hold leadership position.
2. Each student must be free of financial delinquency to the university and be free of disciplinary sanction (e.g., social probation) at the time of application for membership.
3. Each student seeking positions in the Student Government Association (SGA) must meet the appropriate requirements as set forth in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws, and Elections Protocol; possess and maintain a 2.75 GPA; be a full-time (12 credit hours) student during time of application and verification process and for remainder of the semester of election process (entire semester).

UNIVERSITY COLORS. The colors of Savannah State University are reflex blue and burnt orange. Students are encouraged to wear these colors to university intercollegiate activities, pep rallies, appropriate Homecoming activities and many other informal events to demonstrate school pride and spirit.

UNIVERSITY MASCOT. The "Tiger" is the official mascot of Savannah State University. Typically, the "Tiger" can be spotted at certain intercollegiate events. Beware, as the Tiger is ferocious!

STATEMENT ON PROHIBITED TRADITIONS, CUSTOMS, & PRACTICES. Savannah State University recognizes that the above-referenced and other traditions, customs, and practices, add value to the collegiate experience. These traditions are welcomed and encouraged. The University, however, strictly prohibits and will not tolerate traditions, customs, and practices that involve hazing of any kind, that interfere with the academic and personal development of students, that are anti-social, or that compromise students' safety and well-being.

The University will discipline clubs and organizations, including Greek-letter organizations, that engage in underground and clandestine activities and groups that are developed for the purpose of initiation into a club or organization. Students who engage in such activities as well as any form of hazing are subject to suspension from the University, regardless of classification, status, or length at the University. Suspension in these and all other matters, when the sanction is imposed, takes effect immediately.

STUDENT SPECIAL FEES. Special charges are defined as those fees and charges that are paid selectively by students. These fees and charges may include, but are not limited to resident hall deposits; penalty charges; non-mandatory parking fees and parking fines; library fines; laboratory fees; post office box rentals; and supplemental course material fees to cover specific cost. Institutional presidents are authorized to establish and adjust these fees, as appropriate (see BOR Policy 7.3.2.2).

STUDENT ACTIVITIES ALLOCATIONS BOARD (SAAB). The Student Activities

Allocations Board (SAAB) at Savannah State University is made up of students, faculty and staff. Representatives from the student body are recommended by the Student Government Association to the Director of Student Life and represent 50% of the board. The SAAB nominates a student representative to serve as chairperson to preside over the allocation processes. The SAAB will define the allocation process for student fees and make recommendations for allocations of student activities fees to the President. The Student Government Association and the Office of Student Life will ensure that this process occurs annually.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES RESOURCES BOARD (SOAR). Organizations not funded by student activity fees may request funds to assist with certain events or programs. The organization must be registered with the Office of Student Life and present a program beneficial to the student body. Participation in the programs must be open to all students. The program must also have sufficient value to warrant a more enriched collegiate environment. The Student Organizations and Activities Resources Board (SOAR) is composed of students, faculty, and staff from a cross population of the campus community. Their job is to review and hear proposals submitted before the board for special allocations. If allocations are made, the organization must agree to adhere to the regulations made by the board. In order for proposals to be reviewed, they must be submitted to the chairperson of the SOAR Board, the Student Government Association Vice President, at least one month in advance of the program/event date.

STARTING A NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATION OR CLUB. Consistent with the University's view that involvement in educationally and socially purposeful out-of-class experiences enhance the collegiate experience, students are encouraged to establish meaningful student clubs and organizations that are consonant with the goals and objectives of the University. That said requests to create a new student organization must be submitted to the Coordinator of Student Activities for review. The Coordinator of Student Activities will appoint a New Student Organization Committee (NSOC) and serve as chairperson. Consistent with institutional practices related to appointments to university committees, the NSOC will be comprised of faculty, staff, and students.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP IN A STUDENT CLUB OR ORGANIZATION. In order to receive university recognition as a current student club or organization, each group must register with the Office of Student Life by the third week of class during the fall semester. The Office of Student Life has a document that details the information that is needed from all student organizations that intend to register with the university. Annual Registration forms are located in the Office of Student Life. Students are free to reasonably join and associate with clubs and organizations of their choosing, consistent with the membership requirements of such groups. The University, however, does not condone nor expect student clubs and organizations to discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, national origin, gender, marital status, political affiliation, or cultural lifestyle in the selection of its members, except in cases where gender or physical condition are bona fide qualifications.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP INTAKE FOR FRATERNITIES & SORORITIES. Savannah State University seeks to maintain a long relationship with its collegiate fraternities and sororities. The first Greek-letter organization was established at the University in 1949, and since that time Greek-letter organizations have continued to flourish. The relationship between the University and the Greek-letter organization is one that must be mutually beneficial. Greek-letter fraternities and sororities must enhance the quality of student life by providing a range of meaningful opportunities for individual growth and development. The University will seek to embrace such groups as integral student organizations when their principles and practices are consistent. Upon receiving written approval from the Office of Greek Life, each Greek-letter organization may conduct its membership intake activities in strict compliance with both University

and national rules and regulations. In order to receive university recognition as a current student club or organization, each group must register with the Office of Greek Life by the third week of class during the fall semester. The Office of Greek Life has a document that details the information that is needed from all Greek-letter organizations that intend to register with the university. Annual Registration forms and guidelines are located in the Office of Greek Life. Guidelines that govern membership intake for fraternities and sororities can be accessed through the Office of Greek Life.

POLICY CONCERNING AUXILIARY GROUPS. No student organization may sponsor or support an auxiliary group in any form. An auxiliary group is viewed as a supplemental group to an organization in which, for whatever reason, the participants are ineligible to become full members of that organization. These include, but are not limited to the following: little sisters, big brothers, favorites, friends of the chapter, etc. Under no circumstances will a rush, or recruitment activity, be held to recruit individuals for auxiliary organizations. This includes recruiting non-members to do things for the organization in exchange for some type of honor or recognition. Individuals who affiliate with auxiliary groups are also in violation of this policy and can be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED OFF-CAMPUS TRIPS. Off-campus trips that are sponsored by the University or are activities of University clubs and organizations complement the educational experience. Students and the accompanying faculty, staff and/or mentor are required to complete a Student Waiver for Educational & Cultural Trips one week and no less than 48 hours prior to departing the University and secure the approval of the Vice President for Students Affairs or designee. The purpose of the waiver is to express that typically the student traveler assumes any and all liability for his/her personal safety and well-being. The waiver is available in the Office of Student Life, the Division of Student Affairs and on the Student Affairs Website (Forms). University-sponsored or related trips require that a member of the faculty or staff accompany students. Students must abide by all instructions provided by the University representative throughout the duration of the trip. Traveling on University-sponsored or related trips includes the requirement that students return with the group. One-way travel is not permitted, unless the Vice President for Student Affairs grants prior approval. More importantly, throughout the trip students are expected to demonstrate civil, responsible, and ethical behavior and follow all University rules and policies.

POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING THE SUPERVISION OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES. The Division of Student Affairs, through the Office of Student Life, is primarily responsible for the execution and supervision of student activities. In particular, the Office of Student Life assists students in establishing and maintaining student clubs and organizations and in planning and evaluating events and activities. In order for a student club or organization to receive institutional recognition, an on-campus advisor must be selected to help guide the organization in meeting its goals and objectives. The Office of Student Life houses the forms necessary to establish and to annually register all student clubs and organizations. Given the value the University places on involvement in student activities, Savannah State University will not tolerate student-perpetuated traditions, customs, practices, or behavior that involve hazing of any kind, that interfere with the academic and personal pursuits of students, that are anti-intellectual or anti-social, or that compromise the institution's or student's well-being.

Student organizations or members affiliated with student organizations must adhere to the Code of Student Conduct. The University reserves the right to withdraw institutional recognition of student clubs and organizations should such groups engage in practices or behaviors that work against the educational mission of the institution, including hazing. Student clubs and organizations must also be cognizant that the university itself does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, physical disability, national origin, sex,

marital status, political affiliation, or age. The University has high expectations that student clubs and organizations will align themselves with the institution in adhering to this policy.

POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING GUIDELINES FOR ON-CAMPUS AND VIRTUAL EVENTS. The University takes seriously its commitment to create a pleasant campus environment conducive to the safety and well-being of its students. To achieve this aim:

1. The advisor of record or his/her designee must be present at ALL organization events (in-person and virtual) from start to finish.
2. Music including profanity and/or vulgar language is strictly prohibited during on-campus and virtual social events. Organizations are responsible for notification to DJ services of this policy.

Note: There may be modifications to in-person student activities regulations for the 2020-2021 academic year. Please refer to the SSU COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Team's established protocols governing the campus community regarding in-person events and activities.

BOARD OF REGENTS POLCY 4.6.1-WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS. The Board of Regents has determined that the use of marijuana, controlled substances, or other illegal or dangerous drugs constitutes a serious threat to the public health, welfare, and academic achievement of students enrolled in the USG. Therefore, all student organizations, including but not limited to societies, fraternities, sororities, clubs, and similar groups of students which are affiliated with, recognized by, or which use the facilities under the jurisdiction of USG institutions, are hereby charged with the responsibility of enforcing compliance with local, state and federal laws by all persons attending or participating in their respective functions and affairs, social or otherwise. As provided by the Student Organization Responsibility for Drug Abuse Act, any such student organization which, through its officers, agents, or responsible members, knowingly permits, authorizes, or condones the manufacture, sale, distribution, possession, serving, consumption or use of marijuana, controlled substances, or other illegal or dangerous drugs at any affair, function, or activity of such student organization, social or otherwise, is hereby declared to be in violation of the laws of this state and shall have its recognition as a student organization withdrawn and, after complying with the constitutional requirements of due process, shall be expelled from the campus for a minimum of one (1) calendar year from the date of determination of guilt. Such organization shall also be prohibited from using any property or facilities of the institution for a period of at least one (1) year. Any lease, rental agreement, or other document between the Board of Regents or the institution and the student organization that relates to the use of the property leased, rented, or occupied shall be terminated for knowingly having permitted or authorized the unlawful actions described above. All sanctions imposed by this policy shall be subject to review procedures authorized by the Board of Regents (Article VIII of the Bylaws). An appeal to the Board of Regents shall not defer the effective date of the adverse action against the student organization pending the Board's review unless the Board so directs. Any such stay or suspension by the Board shall expire as of the date of the Board's final decision on the matter (BoR Minutes, 1989-90, p. 384). This Policy amendment is intended to implement The Student Organization Responsibility for Drug Abuse Act of 1990. (Ref. <http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section4/policy/4.6>)

UNIVERSITY RECREATION & WELLNESS ACTIVITIES. The University encourages students to get involved in campus intramural and recreation activities. The University's Recreation and Wellness Program provides activities for students who enjoy a structured approach to recreational activities. Recreation activities include flag football, basketball, volleyball, swimming, and horseshoe, 3 on 3 basketball, billiards, softball and table tennis. Because the University is affiliated with the National Intramural

and Recreation Sporting Association, students at Savannah State University are eligible to compete in regional and national intramural competitions against other colleges and universities. Through the Wellness Programs, students have access to health and wellness programming that includes weight training, aerobics, jogging, and health assessments. Additional activities may be added according to student interests. Open recreation hours provide opportunities for students to participate in activities on an informal basis. Willcox-Wiley Gymnasium, the Body Shop, Wright Stadium, the Tiger Arena Athletic Recreation Complex, swimming pool and the tennis courts are some of the venues for such leisure activities. A valid student identification card is required for access into these facilities. ***Note: There may be modifications to in-person student activities regulations for the 2020-2021 academic year. Please refer to the SSU COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Team's established protocols governing the campus community regarding in-person events and activities.***

LEISURE ACTIVITIES ON THE FELIX ALEXIS CIRCLE. The Felix Alexis Circle is an ideal place for leisure and informal activities, though it is occasionally used for formal programs and events. The University encourages students to take advantage of it for both informal and formal gatherings. In cases when students and/or student organizations seek to use it for formal gatherings, a space reservation form must be completed and submitted to the Office of Student Life. Grilling activities are only permitted upon approval, in designated spaces and on approved equipment as determined by the Office of Student Life. The University assumes no liability for any injuries or accidents associated with grilling. Students are encouraged to exercise great care and caution with all activities. The Felix Alexis Circle is the property of the Board of Regents. Inasmuch as there are Greek-letter and other organizational plots located on the Circle, no fraternity, sorority or organization has exclusive rights to areas on the circle. All students and visitors to the University have FULL access to benches, shaded areas, and other locations throughout the Felix Alexis Circle. This includes all fraternities, sororities and/or other organizations. All fraternities, sororities and organizations that have designated plot areas must be registered with the University and must keep the area free of trash, debris and loose equipment. Music including profanity and/or vulgar language is strictly prohibited during on-campus social events; all music should not interfere with class instruction. Organizations are responsible for notification to DJ services of this policy. ***Note: There may be modifications to in-person student activities regulations for the 2020-2021 academic year. Please refer to the SSU COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Team's established protocols governing the campus community regarding in-person events and activities.***

GUIDELINES & TIPS FOR STUDENT SAFETY AND SECURITY. The University takes seriously the safety and well-being of members of the University community and guests and visitors of the University. It complies with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1990, which require, in part, the University to report certain crimes to both students and the U.S. Department of Education. The Department of Public Safety is the unit responsible for public safety, though everyone is encouraged to work collaboratively to ensure the campus is a safe and comfortable environment. Below are some guidelines and practices to enhance safety efforts. Listed below are general safety tips for members of and visitors to the University campus:

1. Immediately report any crime, suspected crime, or suspicious circumstances/persons to the Department of Public Safety, day or night.
2. Never leave personal property unattended. Lock the door when leaving your room. Always take your possessions with you when moving about in the library, cafeteria, classrooms, or offices.

3. When walking on-or off-campus after dark, employ the “buddy system” and walk with friends. Also, let friends know when and where you are going, how long you will be gone and when you expect to return. Let your friends know with whom you will be spending time. This alerts them if you are overdue and gives them a reference point to locate you.
4. Park your vehicle in a lighted parking area designated for students. Always lock your vehicle. Never leave valuables visible inside your vehicle; instead, secure such items in the vehicle trunk. If you are planning to be away from your vehicle for an extended period, never transfer valuables to the trunk in the presence of others. Always remember to remove your keys from the ignition.
5. Properly lock and secure your bicycle to a bike rack, utilizing a strong chain and lock.

STUDENT NICKNAMES. In as much as the University considers nicknames as informal terms of endearment, students are strongly urged to learn the first and last names of their friends and acquaintances. There are instances when knowing a student’s “real” name can help properly identify the student to campus police, emergency medical personnel, or residence hall staff.

EMERGENCY CALL BOX LOCATIONS. Emergency call boxes are located around the campus to provide direct immediate communication links with the Savannah State University Department of Public Safety at any time of the day or night. Emergency call boxes are identified by a blue light and red EMERGENCY lettering on each side.

REPORTING A CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR. All crimes as well as any suspicious activity that occur on the campus of Savannah State University should be reported immediately to the Department of Public Safety by calling 358-3004/356-2186 or by visiting the department in-person. The Department of Public Safety, which is located in Harris Hall, operates 24 hours a day. The Department of Public Safety handles emergencies as well as routine telephone and radio communications through a radio dispatcher. Utilizing radio communication with the local 911 center, the department provides prompt response to medical, fire and other emergencies. The telephone numbers for contacting the Department of Public Safety are as follows:

EMERGENCY	911 OR 912-358-3004
NON-EMERGENCY	912-358-3010
GENERAL INFORMATION	912-356-2186

Confidential and anonymous information can be reported to (912) 358-3004 (Savannah State University Department of Public Safety) or local-based Campus Crime Stoppers at (912) 358-3014. Should an assault occur, particularly of a sexual nature, contact the Department of Public Safety immediately. In such a circumstance, it is advised against clearing or removing any evidence that could be used to pursue the case for a successful adjudication in court. The Department of Public Safety in conjunction with the Office of Student Affairs will arrange treatment and counseling.

GUNS ON-CAMPUS POLICY. No person is permitted to carry a handgun or other firearm on campus, unless they are 21 year of age or older, have a State of Georgia Concealed Weapons Permit, and the weapon is actually concealed. Beginning on July 1, 2017 House Bill 280 allows anyone who is properly licensed in the State of Georgia to carry a handgun in a concealed manner on property owned or leased by public colleges and universities, with some exceptions as explained below. It will not allow any other type of gun to be carried around campus; nor will it allow handguns to be carried openly. (House Bill 280 does not apply, however, to institution-sponsored events or excursions away from campus on property not owned or leased by a University System institution.)

The statute defines concealed as “carried in such a fashion that does not actively solicit the attention of others and is not prominently, openly, and intentionally displayed except for pur-

poses of defense of self or others.” A license-holder therefore may carry a handgun while it is substantially (“but not necessarily completely”) covered by an article of clothing he or she is wearing, or contained within a bag (“of a nondescript nature”) he or she is carrying, or in another similar manner that generally keeps it out of the view of others.

There are a number of exceptions to the new law that limit the places on campus where handguns may be carried. Even license-holders may not carry a handgun into the following locations on college/university-owned or leased property:

a. Buildings and property used for athletic sporting events. This exception includes stadiums, gymnasiums and similar facilities in which intercollegiate games are staged (but does not extend to so-called “tailgating” areas where fans may congregate outside the gates of the sports facility). It does not extend to student recreation centers and similar facilities that are not used for intercollegiate games.

b. Student housing facilities including residence halls and similar buildings where students live such as fraternity and sorority houses. (Note that any housing that is not on property owned or leased by a University System institution is not covered by House Bill 280.)

c. Spaces – including any room, continuous collection of rooms or outdoor facility – that are used for preschool or childcare. In order to qualify, preschool and childcare spaces must have controlled access (meaning access via personnel stationed at the door or an electronic mechanism) limited to authorized people.

d. Rooms and other spaces during the times when they are being used for classes in which high school students are enrolled, whether through dual enrollment and programs such as Move On When Ready or through college and career academies or other specialized programs such as Early College. License-holders who want to carry handguns to class will need to visit the institution’s registrar or other designated employee, who after verifying their enrollment status will tell them which of their classes, if any, have high school students enrolled. Institutions shall not, however, keep any listing of those who inquire. (Note also that the names of enrolled high school students may not be revealed in accordance with applicable privacy laws.) It is the responsibility of license-holders to seek out this information and make themselves aware of which classrooms fall within this exception.

e. Faculty, staff and administrative offices. This exception includes offices and office suites occupied by faculty, staff and administrators but does not include more general public common spaces outside of those areas.

f. Rooms during the times when they are being used for disciplinary proceedings of any kind, including those regarding students, faculty or staff. These would include any meetings or hearings that are part of the University System’s or the institution’s sexual misconduct, student conduct, dispute resolution, grievance, appeals or similar processes. Firearms **MAY NOT** be carried in King Frazier Suite 247, as this is the primary campus location for student conduct review processes and appeals.

g. Firearms may be stored in locked vehicles on campus **ONLY** by licensed carriers as permitted by Georgia law. It is the responsibility of the firearm owner to ensure that the weapon is secured and not accessible to other individuals on campus.

h. No one without a valid Georgia Weapons Permit may carry or possess a firearm within 1,000 feet of property owned, leased, or controlled by Savannah State University.

i. Students that chose to possess a firearm on campus must be able to provide appropriate documentation immediately upon request of ANY law enforcement official.

j. Brandishing a firearm, identifying possession of a firearm, or threatening use of a fire-arm for anything other than defensive purposes may lead to Suspension/Expulsion.

k. Use of a firearm for offensive versus defensive purpose may constitute a policy violation and may lead to Suspension/Expulsion.

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY'S RIGHT OF INSPECTION AND ENTRY.

The University reserves the right to enter residential spaces, lockers and academic buildings if there is cause to believe violations of University policies or rules and regulations noted in the Student Code of Conduct and Housing Policies Manual. Individuals residing in University Housing agree that Savannah State University, or its agents or representatives, may enter the assigned space, Unit, or other Units at the University at reasonable hours for the purpose of making health and safety inspections and repairs or for the purpose of displaying the assigned space or Unit to prospective resident. In an emergency situation, Savannah State University or agent may enter at any time to protect life or prevent damage to the assigned space or Unit. Further, by placing a work order for work to be performed authorizes Savannah State University or agent to enter dwelling unit for the purposes of completing that work order in a timely manner.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND OPERATION. Students who desire to park motor vehicles on the campus are required to purchase a parking permit (see www.savannahstate.edu/permit). Students and their guests who drive vehicles are required to obey all parking and traffic regulations. During restricted hours (7:30AM-4:00PM, Monday-Friday), students may park only in their designated zone/lot. Students without parking permits or those improperly parked are subject to ticketing, booting, and/or towing at the owner's/operator's expense. More information can be found at www.savannahstate.edu/parking-transportation. Official communications regarding parking will be sent via SSU Tigermail.

PARKING REVIEW BOARD (PRB) AND APPEAL OF PARKING CITATIONS.

Anyone receiving a parking citation on the Savannah State University campus has a right to appeal that citation to the PRB. The PRB is tasked with the responsibility of reviewing, investigating, and rendering a final decision to either uphold or dismiss the citation. The Board has 5 members, identified as: one sworn Public Safety Officer of the rank of Corporal or Sergeant, two representatives from the Student Government Association, one staff member, and one faculty member. Only a faculty or staff member is eligible to chair the PRB. The person serving in the capacity of chair will be elected by the PRB members at the first meeting. The PRB shall require the attendance of two members exclusive of the chair or his/her designee in order to convene for business for any appeal. In some cases, in order to expedite the appeal process, the Board can communicate via email. The PRB shall convene at least monthly during the academic year, or as often as necessary to assess and investigate appeals. The PRB shall conduct all investigations in compliance with Federal and State Laws, Board of Regents rules and regulations, and Savannah State University policies and procedures. All appeals must be submitted online at www.savannahstate.edu/permit. The appeal must be received within 10 calendar days from the date of the citation. The right of appeal is forfeited after the 10 calendar days. The PRB shall render a final decision. The appellant will be notified of the decision in writing within 10 business days following the PRB meeting at which the appeal was heard either via email or telephone. For complete information on the Parking Review Board or for other information about parking and transportation at SSU, visit the Parking and Transportation website: <http://www.savannahstate.edu/parking-transportation>.

SHUTTLE SERVICES. The University operates a shuttle service throughout the campus. Communications regarding the shuttle service will be sent via SSU Tigermail.

STORM AND HURRICANE EMERGENCY READINESS PLAN. In light of the fact that the Savannah area is prone to hurricanes, the University has a Hurricane Emergency Readiness Plan for use in the event of a threat of a tropical storm or hurricane. The plan governs how all members of the Savannah State University community will evacuate, tasks to be performed by certain University officials and offices, processes for the activation of the plan, and responsible University officials and/or offices. The plan is available in the Office of Student Affairs, the University Housing & Residence Life, and the Department of Public Safety.

It is vitally important that all instructions of the plan are followed, and that each student strictly adheres to the plan for a timely and orderly accountability and evacuation of the University. Residents who wish to leave the campus on their own must notify Residence Hall Director or the Housing Office at 912-358-3132.

SSU HOMELAND SECURITY. In accordance with University System of Georgia Board of Regents policy, Savannah State University has in place a Campus Homeland Security Task Force. The Task Force is charged by the President with providing appropriate actions for safeguarding the campus community in the event of terrorist threats.

CRISIS INTERVENTION & RESPONSE TEAM. It is Savannah State University's policy to promote a safe environment for its students. The University is committed to working with students to maintain an environment free from violence, threat of violence, harassment, intimidation, and other disruptive behavior. The Crisis Intervention & Response Team focuses on gaining or maintaining immediate safety, coping, and/or stability in an emergency situation. The Crisis Intervention & Response team is coordinated by the Student Affairs' Office of Counseling and Disability Services in cooperation with other University officials. Contact the Public Safety at 358-3004/358-3010 or Student Affairs at 358-3118 for emergency assistance.

CERTIFIED SERVICE ANIMALS. Students with visual disabilities requiring service animals must make arrangements through the Disability Services Office (358-3129).

A DRUG, ALCOHOL & SMOKE FREE CAMPUS

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT. Savannah State University prohibits the unlawful possession, manufacture, distribution, dispensation, and use of illicit drugs and alcohol on the institutional premises in accordance with the Drug-Free Communities and Schools Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101226) and the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Act of 1990.

APPLICABLE LEGAL SANCTIONS FOR UNLAWFUL USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS OR ALCOHOL. The Georgia Penal Code defines "Controlled Substances" in Drug Schedules I-V, Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.), Sections 16-13-35 to 16-13-3. This includes a list of chemical compounds, opiates, hallucinogens, derivatives, isomers, and other materials. The State Board of Pharmacy may add new material to the list as required. An even broader listing of dangerous drugs is defined in O.C.G.A. Section 16-13-71. This citation describes hundreds of chemicals and other compounds. The Georgia General Assembly may add drugs to the list as required.

CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA. "First Offender": A person never before convicted of possession of a small amount of controlled substance may, at the discretion of the judge, be afforded the first offender treatment, resulting in no record of any conviction, if the defendant successfully completes a court monitored comprehensive rehabilitative program (O.C.G.A. 16-13-2 (a)). Possession of one ounce or less of marijuana may result in imprisonment not to exceed 12 months and /or a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or "public works" not to exceed 12 months (O.C.G.A. 16-13-2 (b)). Possession of more than one ounce of marijuana is a felony and is punishable by confinement of not less than one year or more than 10 years (O.C.G.A. 16-13-30j (2)). Trafficking in marijuana is a felony. Depending on the amount, confinement ranges from 5 to 15 years with fines from \$25,000 to \$200,000 (O.C.G.A. 16-13-31-(c)). Penalty for violation of the dangerous drug section is a misdemeanor (O.C.G.A.16-13-79). The penalties for violation of the "controlled substances" provision are numerous and they vary, depending on the drug schedule under which the substance is listed, whether the act charged includes trafficking, and how much of the substance is involved. Penalties range from 5 to 30 years and include life for a second conviction of trafficking narcotics (Schedule II). "Possession of an alcoholic beverage by any person under age 21 may under current Georgia Law result in confinement, not to exceed 30 days, or a fine of not more than \$300, or both". This fine from the public judi-

cial system (which may also be enhanced by associated costs and fees) is IN ADDITION TO the university fine which will be imposed for this violation of student code conduct. Georgia law specifies property which is subject to seizure by the state under public condemnation action, if such property was used in a criminal violation.

FEDERAL SANCTIONS FOR DRUG OFFENDERS. Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841-858 describes the acts and criminal penalties and civil and criminal forfeiture provisions established by Congress. Title 21, U.S.C., Section 812, contains five schedules of “controlled substances”:

Schedule I - describes certain opiates;

Schedule II - contains opium, cocaine, and other addictive substances;

Schedule III - lists amphetamines, phencyclidine (PCP) and other like matter;

Schedule IV - involves barbiturates; and

Schedule V - concerns codeine and atropine sulfate, among other preparations.

The Attorney General of the United States is authorized to add items to the several schedules. The manufacture, or distribution of various controlled substances, depending upon their schedule sequence and the amount of substance involved, is punishable by confinement ranging from not less than 5 nor more than 40 years and fines from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000. The penalty for “simple possession” of illegal drugs ranges from 1 to 20 years, depending upon the substance schedule, amount possessed, and the number of convictions (Title 21, Section 844). The distribution, manufacture, or possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance is punishable by twice the sanction provided in Section 841 (b) (not less than 10 nor more than 80 years, depending upon the schedule and amount), where such offense was performed on or within one thousand feet of a college or university. Section (a) denies certain “federal benefits” to drug traffickers and possessors, such as federal grants, contracts, loans, and professional licenses. Section 853 provides for forfeiture of possession and title to the federal government of any property used in drug offenses.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS. The University offers a comprehensive substance intervention program for students through the Harris-McDew Health Center. Programs are provided promoting healthy lifestyles with emphasis on awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Referrals are administered through the Office of Student Affairs (912.358-3118).

SANCTIONS. Faculty, staff, and students are expected to adhere to the policies of the University and observe the basic standards of good conduct, meet acceptable performance standards, and observe all local, state and federal laws relative to unlawful use of drugs and alcohol. Penalties for violations of these standards range from warnings and probation to expulsion, loss of academic credit, suspension, temporary or permanent suspension and withdrawal of organization recognition, referral to the legal system for prosecution, demotion, and termination of employment. Detailed sanctions are defined in the Student Handbook, Board of Regents Policy Manual, Faculty Handbook, and Classified Employee Handbook. Public Safety follows a policy of zero tolerance for violation of all laws involving alcohol and drugs. Persons found in violation of these laws will be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION. Savannah State University is committed to the elimination of alcohol and drug abuse within the University community. The University is concerned with the safety and welfare of its students. The approach to violations of the alcohol and drug policy is designed to be pro-active. While the primary approach in response to alcohol and drug violations is educational, it should also be clear that violations of the alcohol and drug policy will result in disciplinary sanctions imposed by Savannah State University. The Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998 (HERA) amended the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to allow institutions of higher education to notify parents or legal guardians of students under the

age of 21 of the final outcome of an alcohol or drug violation. In view of these changes, the following policies will be observed:

1. After the second alcohol violation or after the first drug offense, it will be the policy of Savannah State University to notify parents or legal guardians of students under the age of 21 of violations of the University's alcohol or drug policy.
2. When it is determined that the parents or legal guardians should be notified of an alcohol or drug violation, the Office of Student Conduct will be responsible for mailing a letter to the parents or legal guardians outlining the violation and the penalty imposed.
3. Under certain circumstances, the parents or legal guardians of students under 21 years of age may be notified after the first alcohol violation. Those circumstances may be as follows:
 - a. The incident involved significant property damage.
 - b. The incident was a DUI.
 - c. The incident involved a reckless disregard for the safety of students themselves and/or the safety of others.
 - d. The incident was accompanied by other serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct.
 - e. The student has been found responsible for any alcohol or drug-related violation that may result in suspension or dismissal from the University, or removal from University housing.
4. Under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to personally telephone the parents or legal guardians of students under 21 years of age and inform them of a potentially serious incident requiring their immediate notification. A letter will follow up the personal telephone call from the Office of Student Conduct.
5. Students under 21 years of age whose parents or legal guardians are to be notified will be informed by the Vice President for Student Affairs' Office and/or Office of Student Conduct before parental notification occurs. This will give the student an opportunity to initiate contact with their parents or legal guardians before the parental notification letter is mailed

EXCEPTIONS TO THE POLICY. The parent or legal guardians of students who are 21 years of age on the date of adjudication will not be notified.

- a. The parent or legal guardians of students under the age of 21 who have been declared financially independent from their parents will not be notified.
- b. The parents or legal guardians of students under 21 years of age may not be notified in view of various social, religious, or cultural customs and practices, or under extraordinary circumstances as determined on a case-by-case basis by the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee.

Note: Georgia is an Open Records State. Written requests for information under the Open Records Act will be forwarded to the Public Records Custodian.

GENERAL STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

MOBILE PHONES & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES. Cellular phones are often times important means to communicate. These devices, however, can be disruptive for the user and others when activated in classrooms, laboratories, libraries, business offices, and in certain other public areas. The University asks students and others to be mindful of this and to operate cellular phones accordingly. In other words, these devices should be turned off when in the classroom and laboratory, library, business offices, and quiet locations, as they can interfere with the climate for learning.

CIVIL LANGUAGE. Savannah State University is a marketplace for ideas, conversations, and opinions. The University has high expectations that students will engage in critical discourse on a wide range of topics in conversations that take place during formal and informal discussions. Also, the University has high expectations that students engage in civil discourse. The use of profanity, indecent, and lewd language has no place in a University environment. The University recognizes that students have a constitutional right to express themselves. However, it is the responsibility of the student to be respectful and civil in communication with others, as this is paramount in the community of learning and as learners.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS. Students have the right to form, join, and participate in groups or organizations that promote the common interests of students including, but not limited to, clubs or organizations that are organized for intellectual, religious, social, economic, political, recreational, or cultural purposes. The University does require students to follow the procedures and guidelines for establishing and registering such groups through the Office of Student Life. The University prohibits and will not tolerate practices, traditions, or customs that involve hazing of any kind, that interfere with the academic and personal development of students, or that have the potential to put students at harm. Every student organization MUST have two advisors selected by the group or appointed by the Office of Student Life. An advisor shall be defined as faculty, staff, or administrative officer of the University who shall offer support and advice to the organization. The role of an advisor to a Registered Student Organization (RSO) is to advise the organization concerning compliance with Savannah State University and Board of Regents policies and procedures, and to assist and advise the RSO in managing its approved activities.

DRESSING FOR SUCCESS. As a member of the University community, it is expected that every student will have the opportunity to experience success inside and outside of the classroom and to learn in a safe and academically enriching environment. As such, students are encouraged to dress appropriately on the campus and will be denied admission to various functions if their manner of dress is inappropriate to the occasion. During certain University events, the dress is “business attire” (Examples: Founder’s Day, Honor’s Day, banquets, career fairs, awards programs, pageants, lecture series). A student’s attire while on campus and in public should never be lewd, indecent, or distracting to the educational environment nor pose any danger to the student or others. (Examples: Inappropriate dress may include, but is not limited to, halter tops, shorts or skirts revealing any portion of the buttocks or genitals, shirts with obscene language or “fighting” words (including gestures or slogans) undergarments and clothing which allows undergarments to be visually observed such as pants for men and women intended to reveal those undergarments including, sagging pants and extreme low riders. All administrative, faculty and support staff members will be expected to monitor student behavior applicable to this dress code and report students after two (2) repeated violations to the Office of Student Conduct, where cases will be processed as a ‘Failure to Comply’ sanction as noted in the Code of Student Conduct. Faculty is encouraged to deny admittance to the classroom to students who present themselves to the classroom in violation of the above code until they bring themselves in compliance.

GUEST SPEAKERS AND PERFORMERS. Students may freely select and invite speakers and performers from various fields and genres for academic and/or cultural enrichment. When doing so, the sponsoring student group or students must notify the Office of Student Life. In most cases, outside speakers require certain fees and travel accommodations (when permitted). The sponsoring group is responsible for the costs associated with the guest speaker or performer. The invitation of outside speakers and performers does not imply approval or sponsorship of their views by the University nor the group inviting them. While there are no restrictions on the point of view expressed by speakers and performers, other than those imposed by federal or state law, the University will not condone language and behavior that is lewd, racially offensive, or demeaning to any groups on campus.

POSTING DOCUMENTS ON CAMPUS. Prior to posting, documents must be approved for posting by the Office of Student Life. Students are encouraged to post flyers, handbills, signs, notices, posters and other documents on designated bulletin boards and other spaces designated for such purposes. Documents should not be posted on any exterior door of University buildings. Unapproved items and items posted in non-designated areas are subject to immediate removal. Postings that are lewd, offensive, advertise alcohol, drinking contests and that work against the purposes of the University will not be approved nor will documents be reproduced through the University Document Center. The student organization or student responsible for approved postings will be responsible for removing their items once the event has occurred.

PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE. Savannah State University takes seriously its commitment to stimulate and maintain a student centered environment. The institution is focused on and is committed to putting students at the center of University affairs. In the most literal sense, a student-centered environment is one where the faculty and staff exceed student expectations, ensure student satisfaction, and demonstrate that students matter. Central to the University's student-centered philosophy is the role students play in institutional decision-making, where appropriate. This is primarily achieved through the Student Government Association (SGA), though this does not diminish the significance of other registered student organizations or the administration's right to involve other students in decision-making processes. As the representative for students, the SGA appoints students to serve on appropriate University-wide committees. Students are empowered and encouraged to voice their opinions through such committees. Additionally, the SGA is encouraged to make reports and recommendations to any of the University's directors, deans, vice presidents, and the president of the University.

PEACEFUL PROTESTS, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND PICKETING. Students are free to engage in peaceful, responsible, and orderly protests, demonstrations, and picketing; however, such activities must not disrupt the academic and business functions of the University. If a student believes that his or her right to peacefully protest, demonstrate, or picket is being restricted in an inappropriate manner by a student, student group, or an office or department under the aegis of the University, the student may file a complaint with the University through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for mediation or recommendation of appropriate action.

POLICY ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. The rights guaranteed by the First Amendment, including the right to free speech, free expression, free exercise of religion, and the right to assemble peaceably are of the utmost importance, and the University System of Georgia (USG) is committed to protecting those rights.

As public institutions of higher education, USG institutions must promote open ideas and academic freedom on their campuses. While institutions may need to enact policies to promote campus safety, to ensure the proper functioning of the academic environment and institution activities, or to further other important institution objectives, those policies should not unduly burden the free expression rights of students, faculty, and staff. Any parameters placed on the time, place, and manner of expression must not be based on the content of the expression.

To facilitate the free exchange of ideas, institutions may designate accessible, high-traffic locations on campus as public forum areas. The designation of public forum areas may not be used to prohibit individual students, faculty, or staff from engaging in communication elsewhere on campus. Reservation and use of designated public forum areas may only be required in the following limited circumstances: (1) speakers who are not enrolled at or employed by the institution; and (2) students, faculty, or staff who engage in large group demonstrations. Institutions may not consider the content or viewpoint of expression when requiring or assigning use of public forum areas.

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION. Directory information will be treated as public information and generally will be available on all students and former students at the discretion of the University. Directory information includes the students' name, date and place of birth, major field of study, height, weight, age, hometown, hobbies, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, general interest items of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degree applied for or received honors and awards received, student e-mail address, and previous educational institutions attended. Students or parents of students, who are under eighteen, may refuse to permit the release of any or all of the categories of directory information until the end of spring semester by submitting a written request to the Office of the Registrar within ten (10) days of the beginning of any academic semester during which the students are enrolled. Students, former students or media who wish to have directory information withheld should notify the Director of Communications and Community Relations prior to the anticipated date of any media inquiry.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS. Students are free, both individually and collectively, to express their views on institutional matters and on issues that are of interest to the University's student body. The University views student publications, including *The Tiger's Roar*, as media for free and responsible discussion and intellectual discourse. Inasmuch as the University will not purposefully restrict the editorial freedom of student publications and the student press, the editors and/or those responsible for student publications and the student press must be governed by responsible journalism, which entails avoiding libelous and indecent statements, undocumented allegations, attacks on personal integrity, and on employing techniques of harassment and innuendo. To ensure this responsibility, student publications and the student press are encouraged to secure advanced approval of copy by the adviser. Additionally, because student publications and the student press are not official organs of the University, a prominent disclaimer indicating that the views expressed within the publication are not necessarily those of the institution or its faculty, staff, or students must be inserted in the masthead or in some conspicuous section of the publication. Savannah State University is committed to a cooperative climate in which media representatives of *The Tiger's Roar* student newspaper may obtain information on criminal activity on campus. The Georgia Open Records Act and the Campus Security Act, now officially known as the Clery Act, regulated the release of criminal information. In addition to the University's annual report in accordance with the Clery Act, Savannah State University's standard operation procedure shall require the Director of Communications & Community Relations to receive any requests from the Tiger's Roar staff for summary reports and respond within a reasonable time frame. Savannah State University's standard operation procedure shall require the Department of Public Safety through the Chief of Public Safety to provide the requested information to the Director of Communications & Community Relations within a reasonable time frame for transmission to *The Tiger's Roar* staff in accordance with the applicable state and federal laws as referenced herein.

STUDENT RECORDS. Savannah State University is covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended. It is designed to protect the students' rights with regard to education records maintained by the institution. Under the Act, students may inspect and review their own education records maintained by the institution and challenge the content of records (except grades which can only be challenged through the academic appeal procedure) on the grounds that they are inaccurate, misleading or in violation of privacy or other rights. Students may control disclosures from educational records with certain exceptions. Savannah State University's policy on "Access to Student Records" complies with the provisions of FERPA. The University complies with the University of Georgia Board of Regents Policy regarding retention of Student Records. Student Records are retained typically for 5 years after graduation or date of last attendance (See USGBOR policy at

<http://www.usg.edu/usgweb/busserv/series/indexlist.phtml>). For additional information or technical assistance, you may call (202) 260-3887 (voice). Individuals who use TDD may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, or you may contact them at the following address: Family Policy Compliance Office, U. S. Department of Education, and 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.

STUDENT INSURANCE

THEFT AND FIRE. One of the greatest challenges facing colleges and universities is theft in residence halls. From time-to-time, incidents of theft in the residence halls are reported to officials at Savannah State University. Inasmuch as students are strongly encouraged to follow safety instructions and guidelines described in this handbook, it is the University's expectation that students who live on-campus purchase theft and fire insurance. Such insurance information is available in University Housing and Residence Life at a very reasonable cost.

Injury and sickness. Although students pay a health fee each semester, the fee does not pay for student health insurance. If a student is not covered under their parents' health insurance, then the insurance plan should be sought by the student immediately. Certain students are required to participate in the University System of Georgia Student Health Insurance Program (SHIP).

USG STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. All University System of Georgia institutions are required to participate in the Student Health Insurance program. Students in the categories listed below are required to have insurance that meets minimum standards set forth in Plan I (Mandatory Plan). Students who are not covered under another policy (employer, a parent or spouse) must purchase the negotiated policy. The following students are required to have health insurance that meets the minimums in Plan I (Mandatory Plan).

- All graduate students receiving a Full Tuition Waiver as part of their graduate assistantship award.
- All undergraduate, graduate and ESL international students holding F or J visas.
- All undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in programs that require proof of health insurance.
- All graduate students receiving fellowships that fully fund their tuition.

Students who do not fall in the mandatory group (Plan I) have the option of purchasing other coverage provided through the USG Insurance Program (Plan II). For more information visit:

http://www.usg.edu/student_affairs/faq/health/. Additional insurance information is available at the Health Center.

STUDENT SERVICES

Admissions & Recruitment Office (358-4025)

Hill Hall

The Office of Admissions is the first point of contact for prospective students to the university. The office assists in guiding prospective students through the admissions process and provides other services that enable freshman, transfer, transient, special or post baccalaureate, Joint Enrollment/Early Admission, and International students become acclimated to the university.

Asa H. Gordon Library (358-4330)

Units of the library include the Asa Gordon Library, Adams Hall Archives, the Media Center and the Distance Learning component. The primary objective of each library unit is to implement, enrich, and support the educational programs of Savannah State Univer-

sity. The library's holdings include a diverse collection of print, non-print, and computer resources for all to use. Additional resources are made available to our users as a result of our linkage to the University System of Georgia. Throughout our history as a USG library, the Gordon Library has collaborated with other USG libraries to share resources. This collaboration has supplemented our collection through interlibrary loan and GALILEO, an initiative of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, which provides access to a web-based virtual library. Reference librarians provide bibliographic instruction to equip our students with the skills to utilize these online resources and standard reference tools to complete assignments and prepare for lifelong learning.

Bookstore (358-3099)

King-Frazier Student Center

The Savannah State University Bookstore is operated under a contract with a company specializing in bookstore management. In addition to textbooks and school supplies, the bookstore carries SSU apparel and gifts, as well as convenience store items for on-campus and off-campus students, and trade books. Students can save money on their textbooks by using the book rental service and the "best price guarantee" (see bookstore for details). Bookstore hours are posted on the University's web site and at the bookstore. Signs will be posted at the beginning of each semester informing students of when the University Business Office has determined that book vouchers can be used. Signs are also posted informing students of when books may be bought back by the bookstore. Students are encouraged to share feedback on the bookstore with the bookstore manager or the director of Auxiliary Services. Additional information about the bookstore, including online ordering, may be found at www.ssustore.com.

Campus Activities Board (CAB) (358-3127)

Student Union Suite 201

The Campus Activities Board assists in the coordination and implementation of social, cultural, educational, and entertainment programs for the campus community. The mission of CAB is to enhance students' collegiate experience by working to unify the campus community, cultivating student leadership, contributing to retention efforts, complementing academic programs, promoting individual and group self-worth, promoting moral, and school spirit. The board is composed of 12 to 15 students selected and trained from a cross population of the student body. Their job is to serve the campus community by implementing programs in the categories of visual & performing arts, special events, comedy shows, concerts & dances, and student events for homecoming and spring fling.

Career Services (358-3128)

Student Union, First Floor

We provide services to students and alumni seeking employment, graduate school information, cooperative education and internship opportunities. Career Services acts as a liaison between employers, academic developments and students. The Office serves as a resource center to help students explore career opportunities and effectively use the available services for employment assistance, career fairs, resume writing, interview techniques, career planning, career counseling, and job announcements.

Center for Academic Success (358-3488)

Whiting Hall, Second Floor

The Center for Academic Success (CAS) located in Whiting Hall serves to advance the mission of the university community through the development of comprehensive strategies designed to enhance students' academic achievement and success. As a comprehensive center, the strategies designed to improve academic achievement and advancement rates include: Academic Advisement, Individual and Small Group Academic Coaching/Tutoring, USG Testing and Preparation Classes, Developmental Skill building Classes and Supplemental Learning Activities. CAS offers students assistance with their academic needs. The assistance may be in the form of general course planning, choosing a major, finding a tutor or organizing class notes. The CAS staff and faculty are ready and willing to help Savannah State University students increase their potential for aca-

ademic success.

Counseling and Disability Services (358-3129) King-Frazier Student Center 233

Professional Counseling addresses students' needs related to social and emotional issues that may be affecting their day to day functioning, grades and stable school life. Some areas of concern may be relational conflicts between you and your partner, feelings of isolation, as a result of being away from home and not having a strong social support on campus, alcohol and other substance use or abuse, anger management, suicidal tendencies/ depression/ self-injurious behaviors –cutting, mental health issues, violence against the other/sexual offending, eating disorders, communication concerns, and problems related to interaction with the legal system.

Disability services are committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all qualified students with permanent or temporary disabilities which are physical or mental. Accommodations are academic adaptations that do not compromise academic standards or the mastery of essential course elements, but provide students with disabilities, an equal opportunity to succeed. In order to receive support and accommodations in the classroom and for testing purposes, students are required to provide clinical documentation and receive prior approval through this office. It is the student's responsibility to contact us prior to the start of the semester in order to seek accommodation and discuss his/her needs.

Dining Services (358-3135) King-Frazier Student Center

Dining Services at Savannah State is provided by a company skilled in dining operations on college campuses. Dining venues include the all-you-can-eat dining hall in King-Frazier, the food court in the Student Union, and the Tiger Express Diner. Undergraduate residential students under the age of 25 years are required to have meal plans. Meal plans are also available to commuter students, and can be purchased in the ID Card Office, 199 King-Frazier. Students on a meal plan coming to a dining venue without a valid University issued ID card will be required to pay cash for their meals. Hours of the dining venues are posted on the university's web site and in the main dining hall. Holiday hours may vary from the regular dining hours during the academic year. Students are strongly encouraged to share their views about the quality of dining services to the director of dining services, the director of Auxiliary Services, or the Food Service Committee. Additional information about dining services, including a description of available meal plans, may be found at www.savannahstate.edu/dining.

Document Center (358-4220) Morgan Annex

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the University's Document Center, a facility where faxing, copying, banners, and other duplicating services are provided for a fee. Computer stations are located in front of the office for student use. For additional information, please see www.savannahstate.edu/mail-copy.

Financial Aid Office (358-4162) Hill Hall 210

The Financial Aid Office administers all student financial aid as well as academic and athletic scholarships. The goal of the Financial Aid Office is to provide financial assistance and counseling to eligible and deserving students in a timely manner in order for them to pursue an education at Savannah State University. Financial aid programs available to undergraduates include Federal Pell Grant and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant programs. The Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study and Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loan programs are available to both undergraduates and graduates. Students interested in financial aid are required to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available in the Financial Aid Office and on the Internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Upon completion of the FAFSA, a Student Aid Report (SAR) is generated by the government, which in turn is submitted to the University's data base system. Students receive a hard copy of the SAR. Based on a

formula that is developed through a need analysis, as determined by the institution's costs and a student's needs, a financial aid award is given. An Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) determines whether a student receives grant-in-aid or a loan. Academic scholarships are awarded through the scholarship committee, while the Athletic Department manages awards to student-athletes. All scholarship recipients are required to file for financial aid, starting with the FAFSA document.

Food Service Committee

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

The Food Service Committee serves as a liaison for residential and non-residential students, Auxiliary Services, and the Dining Services Director. The Committee is responsible for gathering and processing students' concerns and/or recommendations regarding the quality of food being served. The Committee communicates with the student body as it relates to their responsibility regarding the dining venues. The Vice President for Student Affairs serves as Chair and makes appointments to the Committee consisting of students, faculty, and staff. Committee members will serve for one academic year.

Greek Life (358-3433)

King-Frazier Student Center 129

The Office of Greek Life assists in the enhancement of fraternity and sorority life through collaborative activities involving Greek letter organization focused on social, civic, academic and leadership initiatives. The office will assist these organizations in identifying campus initiatives and community projects which will bring awareness to social issues and provide community service opportunities for the student body. The Office of Greek Life will work with fraternities and sororities to provide developmental seminars and trainings for members and for the student body to prepare Savannah State University students for success on campus and for the expectations of the professional work environment.

Housing & Residence Life (358-3132)

Adams Hall

University Housing and Residence Life provides on-campus housing for traditional undergraduates that is comfortable, affordable, accessible, academically driven, and secure. Our first year residents will be housed in traditional and suite style units. Upperclassmen are housed in the townhouses and apartments. All housing assignments are done on a first come, first served basis. Our residential curriculum fosters all avenues of academic success, student development, and leadership.

Intramural Sports & Wellness Programs (358-3071)

Willcox-Wiley Gym

The Intramural Sports and Wellness Program (ISWP) is designed to foster both competitive and leisure sports and fitness activities for both men and women. Activities usually include, but are not limited to, basketball, volleyball, softball, and flag football. The goals of the ISWP Office are to:

- Provide students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to participate in a variety of structured sports and recreational activities; and
- Provide all participants with a safe and enjoyable environment in which to participate in activities. Participants are required to fill out a Student Waiver Form with the ISWP Office. Activities may be facilitated by the accessibility of campus facilities and equipment.

Laundry Services

Laundry services are provided on a pre-paid basis. All resident students pay a fee each semester, and the equipment is available for use without additional payment. Please notify your RA or RD if there is a problem with the equipment.

Leadership & Character Development (358-3118)

King-Frazier Student Center 247

The development of leadership skills is a desired educational outcome at the University. As such, the University, through the Division of Student Affairs, has established the Center for

Leadership & Character Development. The Center focuses primarily on developing student leadership, character development, and service through seminars, institutes, retreats, and workshops. The Center itself is located in the Division of Student Affairs suite; it houses dozens of books and videos, and DVDs on leadership, personal development, career development, and service learning. Typically, the Center engages in several major leadership programs, specifically in the fall, winter, and spring. Programs include The Freshman Academy: Leadership 101, Alternative Spring Break, and the Distinguished Lecture Series. All students are encouraged to utilize the Center. Students should be mindful that the major leadership programs are limited to small numbers of students.

Mail Center (358-3126)

King-Frazier Student Center

At the mail center, students can purchase stamps and send letters and packages. Resident students must go to the Mail Center to request a mail box, for which they pay a nominal fee each semester. Returning students may keep their same mail box if they have housing assigned by July 1. The service window is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for University holidays. NO CASH should be sent through the mail and tracking should be added to all items of value sent to student's mailbox. There is no delivery of mail by USPS on Federal holidays. Unfortunately, the University cannot receive packages or letters for commuter students. If you are a resident student and move off-campus, please provide your forwarding address to the Mail Center, and notify your senders. First class mail and packages (only) will be forwarded for 30 days, then will be returned to sender. For additional information, please see www.savannahstate.edu/mail-copy.

Ombudsperson (358-3074)

King-Frazier Student Center 200

The Ombudsperson is a student service at Savannah State University. An Ombudsman is an impartial person who provides confidential and informal assistance for resolving University related concerns, especially those that are not being adequately addressed through usual procedures. The Ombudsman is independent of the University's formal administrative structure and considers all sides of an issue in an impartial and objective manner. An Ombudsman cannot impose solutions but can help to identify strategies for resolution.

Public Safety (358-3004)

Hubert C

The Department of Public Safety is primarily responsible for the safety of members and guests of the University community by providing law enforcement services throughout the campus 24 hours per day, seven days per week throughout the calendar year. Staffed by State of Georgia certified officers with specialized training, officers of the Department of Public Safety have arrest powers for offenses committed on any public or private property within 500 yards of any property under the auspices of the University System of Georgia. In emergency situations, students are instructed to contact the Department of Public Safety at 356-2186.

Registrar's Office (358-4153)

Colston Administration Building

The Registrar's Office manages students' academic records and publishes information that assists students in the academic environment. Students use Personal Access Website for Students (PAWS) to conveniently enroll in courses, access financial aid information, verify enrollment, and view other pertinent information.

Student Activities (358-3127)

Student Union Suite 201

The Office of Student Activities is responsible for enhancing student life through co-curricular activities, which are an integral part of the physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual growth of students. Student activities at Savannah State University consist of: clubs and organizations; game room and recreational activities; movies; campus-wide and informal activities; and departmental activities. Student organizations provide opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to interact with one another during cultural, recreational, spiritual, and social activities either in formal or informal settings.

Student Conduct (358-3122)**King-Frazier Student Center 247**

The Office of Student conduct challenges and supports students in making ethical and responsible decisions, uphold the principles of civility, integrity, and accountability, in order to create a safe and secure education environment for all students. The Office manages all violations of the Code of Student Conduct and serves as a campus resource for mediation and conflict resolution as well as education and awareness of important issues impacting students.

Student Financial Services/Bursar (358-4091)**Hill Hall 119**

Student Financial Services is responsible for the billing, collecting and depositing of all funds collected by the University.

Student Government Association (SGA) (358-3148)**Student Union Suite 204**

The Student Government Association (SGA), which is the official representative of the student body, works closely with the University administration on matters related to student life. The SGA is a student-directed organization that provides students with a voice in the decision-making processes of the University. The SGA provides a link between students and the administration. SGA officers are elected by the student body and serve one-year terms. Students are encouraged to discuss their opinions, concerns, and expectations with SGA members, so that the organization can effectively represent them and promote the welfare of the student body. To carry out its tasks, the SGA creates various action committees and encourages students to participate in the work of these committees. Student activity fees support the SGA.

Student Health Services (358-4122)**Harris-McDew Student Health Center**

All full-time undergraduate and graduate students pay a student health fee that covers the unlimited use of student health center services without additional cost for services provided by the staff. The Harris- McDew Student Health Center is conveniently located on the SSU campus on Jasmine Avenue adjacent to Payne Hall. It seeks to maintain, improve, and safeguard the health of students.

The center, which is staffed by nurses, is open Monday through Friday. Additionally, a physician is available Monday through Thursday. A resident student suffering from an injury or sudden illness during hours when the health center is closed should contact the resident hall staff, resident assistant, or the Department of Public Safety. An ambulance or paramedic unit may be dispatched to campus for an immediate evaluation or transportation to the hospital as needed at the Student's expense. Students are responsible for the cost of all services provided by any other community health care provider. All students are encouraged to be covered by an adequate health insurance plan and should follow its directions for emergency or crisis care. Information on a current student health insurance plan is maintained in the Student Health Center. Participation in the student health insurance plan is voluntary and the student is responsible for the cost.

Student Identification Cards (358-3068)**King-Frazier 199**

All students (residing on-campus or off-campus) are required to obtain an SSU ID Card from the ID Card Office upon initial registration at the University. The SSU ID Card must be in your possession at all times while on-campus or when coming onto campus and present upon request to university officials (faculty, staff and public safety). A card will be valid each semester when a student is registered for classes, and will not work prior to that time. The SSU ID Card is not transferable. Only the first card is issued without a fee. Lost cards must be reported immediately to the ID Card Office to prevent unauthorized use of any meals or dollars placed on the card. Lost or stolen ID card replacements are \$35.00. Damaged ID cards will be replaced at no charge, if the damaged card is turned in and the mag stripe can be read to determine it is the most recent card issued. Please read thoroughly the Cardholder Agreement that you will sign when you receive your ID Card, as this has additional terms and conditions related to your card.

Student Support Services (358-4433)**Whiting Hall 122**

The purpose of Student Support Services is to enable eligible student-participants to persist to graduation through instructional, tutorial, academic, and mentoring assistance. First-generation college and low-income students are eligible to participate in the program, as are students with certain disabilities who demonstrate an academic need for assistance.

Vending (358-3104)**King Frazier Student Center, First Floor**

Snack and beverage vending are managed by the Office of Auxiliary Services. If you encounter a problem with the vending machines, please notify Auxiliary Services at 912-358-3104, giving the type of machine, location, and problem. Do not shake or tilt the machine as it may be dangerous and cause injury. Refunds are also available from Auxiliary Services. Vandalism or destruction to vending equipment are offenses which are subject to fines and/or disciplinary action. Joint responsibility may be assigned to residential students if the person(s) responsible is not identified.

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Consistent with its mission, Savannah State University takes seriously its commitment to fostering and maintaining an environment conducive to student learning and growth through curricular and co-curricular programs. At the same time, the University has high expectations that students govern their behavior, actions, and practices responsibly and with civility. Students are therefore, expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the objectives and standards of conduct established by the University. A violation of any section of the code will lead to disciplinary action regardless of class level, age, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or physical ability level.

Core Values of Student Conduct at Savannah State University

- **Integrity:** Savannah State students exemplify honesty, honor and a respect for the truth in all of their dealings.
- **Community:** Savannah State students build and enhance their community. Savannah State students will be active and engaged citizens.
- **Social Justice:** Savannah State students are just and equitable in their treatment of all members of the community and act to discourage and/or intervene to prevent unjust and inequitable behaviors.
- **Respect:** Savannah State students show positive regard for each other, for property and for the community.
- **Responsibility:** Savannah State students are given and accept a high level of responsibility to self, to others and to the community.
- **Tradition:** Savannah State students recognize the importance of our traditions and the legacy we leave for future generations of students.

Savannah State University students are responsible for knowing the information, policies and procedures outlined in this document. It is also important to note that the Code of Student Conduct applies to students both on and off campus, as well as abroad while associated with the University. The University reserves the right to make changes to this code as necessary and once those changes are posted online, they are in effect. Students are encouraged to check online for the updated versions of all policies and procedures. (*The NCHERM Group Model Code Project, 2013.*)

The Savannah State University Code of Student Conduct is adapted from The National Center for Higher Education Risk Management (NCHERM) Group Model Developmental Code of Student Conduct and is used here with permission.

Office of Student Conduct Mission Statement: The Office of Student Conduct challenges and supports students in making ethical and responsible decisions, upholding the principles of civility, integrity and accountability, in order to create a safe and secure educational environment for all members of the campus community.

OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT PHILOSOPHY. The University community is committed to fostering a campus environment that is conducive to academic inquiry, a productive campus life and thoughtful study and discourse. The student conduct program within the Office of Student Conduct is committed to an educational and developmental process that balances the interests of individual students with the interests of the entire University community. A community exists on the basis of shared values and principles.

At Savannah State University, student members of the community are expected to uphold and abide by certain standards of conduct that form the basis of the Code of Student Conduct. These standards are embodied within a set of core values that include integrity, community, social justice, respect, responsibility, and tradition. Each member of the University community bears responsibility for their conduct and assumes reasonable responsibility for the behavior of others. When members of the community fail to exem-

ply these six values by engaging in violation of the policies below, campus conduct proceedings are used to assert and uphold the Code of Student Conduct.

The student conduct process at the University is not intended to punish students; rather, it exists to protect the interests of the community and to challenge those whose behavior is not in accordance with our policies. Sanctions are intended to challenge students' moral and ethical decision-making and to help them bring their behavior into accord with our community expectations. When a student is unable to conform their behavior to community expectations, the student conduct process may determine that the student should no longer share in the privilege of participating in this community. Students should be aware that the student conduct process is quite different from criminal and civil court proceedings. Procedures and rights in student conduct procedures are conducted with fairness to all, but do not include the same level of due process protection afforded by the courts in criminal or civil cases. Due process, as defined within these procedures, assures notice and a hearing before an objective decision-maker(s). No student will be found in violation of University policy without information showing that it is more likely than not that a policy violation occurred and any sanctions will be proportionate to the severity of the violation and to the cumulative conduct history of the student.

ZERO TOLERANCE STATEMENT. Savannah State University strives to create an education environment free from fear and intimidation. All students have the right to attend Savannah State University in a safe and secure environment. In accordance with Savannah State University's Zero Tolerance Statement, the following sanctions will be imposed on the FIRST incident involving violations of these policies:

Physical Violence/ Fighting- Both parties involved will receive a minimum one Semester University Suspension and/or University Expulsion.

Firearms Violation- Minimum of at least one-year University Suspension and/or University Expulsion.

Sexual Assault- Minimum of at least one-year University Suspension and/or University Expulsion.

Drug Sales/Distribution- Minimum of at least one-year University Suspension and/or University Expulsion.

Drug Use (First Offense) - Mandatory Education, Parental Notification, \$250 Fine

Drug Use (Repeated Offense) - Mandatory Counseling Referral, \$500 Fine, Loss of University Housing, Disciplinary Probation and/or University Suspension

Theft - Minimum of at least one-year University Suspension and/or University Expulsion.

Hazing - Minimum of at least one-year University Suspension and/or University Expulsion, Organization Suspension

While not Zero Tolerance Offenses, the following minimum sanctions will be imposed for Alcohol Use/Possession on Campus:

Alcohol (First Offense) - Mandatory Education, \$150 Fine

Alcohol (Repeated Offense) - Mandatory Counseling, \$250 Fine, Loss of University Housing, Disciplinary Probation, University Suspension and/or Expulsion.

JURISDICTION. Per the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, each institution shall take necessary and appropriate action to protect the safety and well-being of its community. Accordingly, student conduct should be addressed when such acts occur on institution property or at institution-sponsored or affiliated events, or otherwise violate the institution's student conduct policies at non-institution sponsored events. Code of Conduct Policies apply to student behavior on and off the Savannah State University campus. If the student has admitted responsibility and has voluntarily decided to participate in the informal process, the procedures outlined in this section will not apply. The

Code of Student Conduct and the student conduct process apply to the conduct of individual students, both undergraduate and graduate, and all Savannah State-affiliated student organizations. For the purposes of student conduct, Savannah State considers an individual to be a student when an offer of admission has been extended and thereafter as long as the student has a continuing educational interest in Savannah State. Savannah State University retains conduct jurisdiction over students who choose to take a leave of absence, withdraw or have graduated for any misconduct that occurred prior to the leave, withdrawal or graduation. If sanctioned, a hold may be placed on the student's ability to re-enroll and/or obtain official transcripts and/or graduate and all sanctions must be satisfied prior to re enrollment eligibility. In the event of serious misconduct committed while still enrolled but reported after the accused student has graduated, Savannah State may invoke these procedures and should the former student be found responsible, Savannah State may revoke that student's degree and/or continue to prevent student access to the University and its facilities. The Code of Student Conduct applies to behaviors that take place on the campus, at University/College-sponsored events and may also apply off-campus when the Vice-President of Student Affairs or designee determines that the off-campus conduct affects a substantial Savannah State University interest. A substantial SSU interest is defined to include:

- Any situation where it appears that the student's conduct may present a danger or threat to the health or safety of him/herself or others; and/or
- Any situation that significantly impinges upon the rights, property or achievements of self or others or significantly breaches the peace and/or causes social disorder; and/or
- Any situation that is detrimental to the educational mission and/or interests of SSU.

The Code of Student Conduct may be applied to behavior conducted online, via email or other electronic medium. Students should also be aware that online postings such as blogs, web postings, chats and social networking sites are in the public sphere and are not private. These postings can subject a student to allegations of conduct violations if evidence of policy violations is posted online. Most online speech by students not involving Savannah State University networks or technology will be protected as free expression and not subject to this Code, with two notable exceptions:

1. A threat, defined as "a threat a reasonable person would interpret as a serious expression of intent to inflict bodily harm upon specific individuals"; and/or
2. Speech posted online about SSU or its community members that causes a significant on-campus disruption.

The Code of Student Conduct applies to guests of community members whose hosts may be held accountable for the misconduct of their guests. Visitors to and guests of Savannah State may seek resolution of violations of the Code of Student Conduct committed against them by members of SSU community. There is no time limit on reporting violations of the Code of Student Conduct; however, the longer someone waits to report an offense, the harder it becomes for University officials to obtain information and witness statements and to make determinations regarding alleged violations. Though anonymous complaints are permitted, doing so may limit the University's ability to investigate and respond to a complaint. Those who are aware of misconduct are encouraged to report it as quickly as possible to the Office of Student Conduct and/or to Campus Police. A responding student facing an alleged violation of the Code of Student Conduct is not permitted to withdraw from Savannah State University until all allegations are resolved.

University E-Mail Communication Statement. University email is Savannah State's primary means of communication with students. Students are responsible for all communication delivered to their University email address. Failure to check your University email will NOT BE an acceptable excuse for failing to respond to a hearing request and/or any sanctions that are imposed as the result of a hearing. The University is not responsible to

send correspondence to personal email accounts- all communication will be delivered through a student's official SSU email account.

VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW. Alleged violations of federal, state and local laws may be investigated and addressed under the Code of Student Conduct. When an offense occurs over which SSU has jurisdiction, the University conduct process will usually go forward notwithstanding any criminal complaint that may arise from the same incident. The University reserves the right to exercise its authority of interim suspension upon notification that a student is facing criminal investigation and/or complaint. Interim suspensions are imposed until a formal hearing can be held, typically within five (5) business days. This hearing may resolve the allegation, or may be held to determine if the interim suspension should be continued.

The interim suspension may be continued if an imminent danger to the community is posed and SSU may be delayed or prevented from conducting its own investigation and resolving the allegation by the pendency of the criminal process. In such cases, the University will only delay its hearing until such time as it can conduct an internal investigation or obtain sufficient information independently or from law enforcement upon which to proceed. This delay will be no longer than two weeks from notice of the incident unless a longer delay is requested in writing by the complaining victim to allow the criminal investigation to proceed before the University process.

Students accused of crimes may request to take a leave from the University until the criminal charges are resolved. In such situations, the University procedure for voluntary leaves of absence is subject to the following conditions:

- The responding student must comply with all campus investigative efforts that will not prejudice their defense in the criminal trial; and
- The responding student must comply with all interim actions and/or restrictions imposed during the leave of absence; and
- The responding student must agree that, in order to be reinstated to active student status, they must first be subject to, and fully cooperate with, the campus conduct process and must comply with all sanctions that are imposed.

Information from complaints may be shared as necessary to investigate and to resolve the alleged misconduct. Complaints shall be investigated and resolved as outlined below. The need to issue a broader warning to the community in compliance with the Clery Act shall be assessed in compliance with federal law. Where appropriate, complainants may file a law enforcement report along with an institutional report.

Not all matters covered under this policy will necessarily involve alleged victims; however, where they are involved, it should be noted that a complainant will not always be the alleged victim but instead may be a third-party witness. The institution may also respond to issues raised by third-party complaints (such as referrals by police) or discovered by staff or through its own investigations.

CODE OF CONDUCT POLICIES

Core Values and Behavioral Expectations. Savannah State University considers the behavior described in the following sub-sections as inappropriate for the SSU community and in opposition to the core values set forth in this document. These expectations and policies apply to all students enrolled in online instruction or in face-to-face classes, whether undergraduate or graduate. The University encourages community members to report to University officials all incidents that involve the following actions. Any student found to have committed or to have attempted to commit the following misconduct is subject to the sanctions outlined in Section 7: Formal Conduct Procedures.

Integrity: Savannah State University students exemplify honesty, honor and a respect for the truth in all of their dealings. Behavior that violates this value includes,

but is not limited to:

1. **Academic Dishonesty.** Students are subject to disciplinary action for engaging in academic misconduct and academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or allowing another to submit one's work as though it were his or hers.
 - b. Several people completing an assignment and turning in multiple copies, all represented either implicitly or explicitly as individual work.
 - c. Failure to properly acknowledge authorities quoted, cited or consulted in the preparation of written work (plagiarism). Specific examples of plagiarism are:
 - i. Copying and/or presenting the words of others as one's own writing, including from Internet sources.
 - ii. Copying words, even if you cite the sources, unless appropriate quotation is noted.
 - iii. Copying words and then changing them a little, even if you give the source.
 - iv. Expressing in your own words someone else's ideas as your own.
 - d. The use of any materials, textbook, notes, cellular phones, or other electronic devices during an examination without the expressed permission of the instructor.
 - e. The receiving or giving of unauthorized help on assignments.
 - f. Stealing a problem solution from an instructor.
 - g. Tampering with experimental data to obtain 'desired' results or creating results for experiments not done ("dry labbing").
 - h. Tampering with or destroying the work of others.
 - i. Submitting substantial portions of the same academic work for credit of honors more than once without permission of the present instructor.
 - j. Lying about these or other academic matters.
 - k. Falsifying college records, forms or other documents.
2. **Falsification.** Knowingly furnishing or possessing false, falsified or forged materials, documents, accounts, records, identification or financial instruments;
3. **Unauthorized Entry/Use of University Facilities and Vehicles.** Students are subject to disciplinary action for:
 - a. Unauthorized entry and/or use of any University building, vehicle, residence hall, office, or other facilities. Students are further prohibited from remaining without authorization in any building after normal closing hours;
 - b. Possess keys or duplicate keys without proper authorization.
 - c. Trespassing, propping or unauthorized use of alarmed doors for entry into or exit from a University building;
 - d. Permitting use or using other Student IDs/Staff IDs/ keys to access buildings or campus entry points.
4. **Joint Responsibility.** Action or inaction with another or others to violate the Code of Student Conduct; Examples of Joint Responsibility include but are not limited to:
 - a. Students are subject to disciplinary action for knowingly acting in concert with others to violate University regulations.
 - b. Students are subject to disciplinary action for being aware of the existence of a violation of University regulations and failing to take reasonable action to report the violations in a timely manner.

- c. Students are responsible for violations of University regulations that occur in on campus residential facility rooms and are to report such violations in a timely manner.
 - d. Students are responsible at all times for the actions of guests or family members that have been brought to campus or are visiting a member of the campus community.
 - e. Students are responsible for the actions of any guests or visitors. Students are responsible for their guests and must escort their guests at all times.
 - f. Students may be found responsible for being in proximity to policy violations, even if they are not directly participating in said violations.
5. **Trust.** Violations of positions of trust within the community; deliberately misleading University officials or agents attempting to gain information for University business.
 6. **Election Tampering.** Tampering with the election of any SSU-recognized student organization (minor election code violations are addressed by the SGA).
 7. **Taking of Property.** Intentional and unauthorized taking of University property or the personal property of another, including goods, services and other valuables; attempting to take, sell or keep in one's possession, including but not exclusively, items of University property, or items belonging to students, faculty, staff, student groups, visitors or to others within the larger community whether on or off campus; knowingly taking or maintaining possession of stolen property.

Community: Savannah State University students build and enhance their community. Behavior that violates this value includes, but is not limited to:

8. **Disruptive Behavior.** Substantial disruption of University operations including obstruction of teaching, research, administration, other University activities, and/or other authorized non-University activities which occur on campus and/or online; students are subject to disciplinary action for engaging in conduct that is disorderly, rowdy, lewd, or indecent. Furthermore, students may be subject to disciplinary action for engaging in breach of peace or aiding, abetting, or procuring another to do the same on University property or University sponsored events or in the online environment.

Classroom Disruption. Students may not disrupt class instruction. Instructors have the right to ask any student to leave the classroom environment (face-to-face or online) if they feel a student is disrupting the normal operation of the classroom. Students that feel that they have been inappropriately dismissed from class are encouraged to seek counsel with the Chair/Dean of the academic department, Dean of Students and/or the University Ombudsperson.

9. **Disorderly Assembly.** Students are subject to disciplinary action for the following acts of misconduct:
 - a. Assembling on-campus for the purpose of disrupting classes, seminars, meetings, research projects, or activities of the University;
 - b. Assembling on-campus for the purpose of creating a riot, attempting to create a riot, destroying property, or creating a disorderly diversion that interferes with the normal operation of the University (i.e. water balloon fights, water gun fights, egging incidents, etc.);
 - c. Obstructing the freedom of movement of persons to and from University facilities or materially interfering with the normal operation of the University; and
 - d. Engaging in abuse of or unauthorized use of sound amplification equipment indoors or outdoors during classroom hours (any use of sound amplification equipment must be cleared through the Office of Student Life);
 - e. Violating University policies concerning the registration, scheduling and recogni-

tion of student organizations and activities.

- f. Assembling on campus in a manner that violates COVID-19 protocols, noise, occupancy, substance abuse policies, and/or other Housing Policies in a manner that appears to be a party, “kickback”, or other unauthorized social gathering.
- 10. Trademark/Misrepresentation.** Unauthorized use (including misuse) of University or organizational names and images. *(Please contact the Office of University Advancement if unsure of appropriate use of University logos and trademarks.)*
 - 11. Damage and Destruction.** Intentional, reckless and/or unauthorized damage to or destruction of University property or the personal property of another.
 - 12. IT and Acceptable Use.** Violating the University Acceptable Use and Computing Policy, including but not limited to:
 - a. Unauthorized entry into a file to use, read, or change the contents, or for any other purpose;
 - b. Unauthorized transfer of a file;
 - c. Unauthorized use of another individual’s identification and password;
 - d. Use of computing facilities to send obscene, threatening or abusive messages;
 - e. Use of computer facilities that violate copyright laws including the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material via file sharing;
 - f. Inappropriate use of social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Blogs, etc.), the internet or virtual classrooms, meetings, etc.
 - g. Use of computing facilities to interfere with the normal operation of Computer Services and Information Technology.
 - 13. Gambling.** Gambling is prohibited by the laws of the State of Georgia; students are subject to disciplinary action for playing video games, cards, dice or any other game of skill or chance for money or other items of value.
 - 14. Firearms & Weapons.** Students are expected to abide by all provisions of the Campus Gun Carry Policy on page 19 of the Student Handbook. Failure to abide by these guidelines will likely result in University Suspension and/or Expulsion. Students are subject to disciplinary action for possessing handguns (except as outlined in the Campus Gun Carry Policy) or any lethal or potentially destructive weapons including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Guns (outside of Campus Gun Carry Policy, page 19), bow and arrows, BB guns, air guns, ammunition, hunting slingshots, martial arts weapons, chemical weapons, medieval weapons, darts, box-cutters, and knives. Possession of ammunition, firearm parts, including magazines (clips) or spent casings is strictly prohibited in ANY residential facility.
 - b. Firearms are prohibited from Residence Halls/Apartments, classrooms where high school aged students are enrolled, sporting events, and administrative offices. Firearms may be stored pursuant to Georgia law in a locked vehicle by a licensed weapons carrier.
 - c. Electroshock Weapons (Stun Guns/Tasers) are permitted under O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1 to be carried on campus. ONLY commercially available, non-military or non-law enforcement grade products are permissible. Use of these weapons for offensive versus defensive purpose may constitute a policy violation and may lead to Suspension/Expulsion.
 - d. Mace and/or Pepper Spray are permitted. Only commercially available, non-military or non-law enforcement grade products are permissible. Use of these weapons for offensive versus defensive purpose may constitute a policy violation and may lead to Suspension/Expulsion.

- 15. Smoking/Tobacco.** Smoking on campus is strictly prohibited as mandated by the Georgia Board of Regents and Georgia State Law. This includes but is not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and smokeless chewing tobacco. Individuals found smoking may face not only University sanction, but may also be referred to local law enforcement.
- 16. Fire Safety.** Violation of local, state, federal or campus fire policies including, but not limited to:
- Intentionally or recklessly causing a fire which damages University or personal property or which causes injury.
 - Failure to evacuate a University-controlled building during a fire alarm;
 - Improper use of University fire safety equipment; or
 - Tampering with or improperly engaging a fire alarm or fire detection/control equipment while on University property. Such action may result in a local fine in addition to University sanctions;
- 17. Animals.** Animals, with the exception of animals that provide assistance or comfort (e.g. seeing-eye dogs) are not permitted on campus except as permitted by law. Such animals are allowed only as registered with and approved by the Disability Office and Director of Housing. *(Please visit <http://www.savannahstate.edu/student-affairs/office-of-disability-services-intro.shtml> for more information on the Office of Disability Services.)*
- 18. Wheeled Devices.** Skateboards, roller blades, roller skates, bicycles and similar wheeled devices are not permitted inside University buildings, residence halls or on tennis courts. Additionally, skateboards and other wheeled items may not be ridden on railings, curbs, benches, or any such fixtures that may be damaged by these activities; and individuals will be liable for damage to University property caused by these activities.
- 19. Solicitation.** Unauthorized solicitation for goods and services on Savannah State University property is strictly prohibited. Solicitation may include door to door sales, canvassing parking lots with fliers, use of social media platforms (i.e. Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.) and internet, or any other activities that represent the sales of outside goods or services to the University community.

Social Justice: Students recognize that respecting the dignity of every person is essential for creating and sustaining a flourishing University community. They understand and appreciate how their decisions and actions impact others and are just and equitable in their treatment of all members of the community. They act to discourage and challenge those whose actions may be harmful to and/or diminish the worth of others. Conduct that violates this value includes, but is not limited to:

- 20. Discrimination.** Any act or failure to act that is based upon an individual or group's actual or perceived status (sex, gender, race, color, age, creed, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, veteran status, pregnancy status, religion, or sexual orientation, or other protected status) that is sufficiently severe that it limits or denies the ability to participate in or benefit from the University's educational program or activities. Students are further prohibited from violating the provisions and intent of applicable University policies on Sexual Harassment (Sexual Assault & Misconduct), Affirmative Action, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 21. Harassment.** Any unwelcome conduct based on actual or perceived status including: sex, gender, race, color, age, creed, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, veteran status, pregnancy status, religion, sexual orientation or other protected status. Any unwelcome conduct should be reported to campus officials, who will act to remedy and resolve reported incidents on behalf of the victim and community.

- a. Hostile Environment. Sanctions can and will be imposed for the creation of a hostile environment only when harassment is sufficiently severe, pervasive (or persistent) and objectively offensive that it unreasonably interferes with, limits or denies the ability to participate in or benefit from the University's educational or employment program or activities.
 - b. Retaliatory Discrimination or Harassment. Any intentional, adverse action taken by a responding individual or allied third party, absent legitimate nondiscriminatory purposes, against a participant or supporter of a participant in a civil rights grievance proceeding or other protected activity under this Code.
 - c. Unwanted Contact. Any contact made after a request to cease contact has been made. This request can be made by any individual and also includes No Contact Orders issued by the University or outside agencies (temporary restraining orders, court mandates, etc.)
- 22. Bystanding.** Students are expected to reasonably respond to assist other students in need.
- a. Complicity with or failure of any student to appropriately address known or obvious violations of the Code of Student Conduct or law;
 - b. Complicity with or failure of any organized group to appropriately address known or obvious violations of the Code of Student Conduct or law by its members.
 - c. Complicity with or failure to render aid and/or contact authorities during acts of physical violence or threat, specifically video/audio taping confrontations and not seeking appropriate help.
- 23. Abuse of Conduct Process.** Abuse or interference with, or failure to comply in, University processes including conduct and academic integrity hearings including, but not limited to:
- a. Falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information;
 - b. Failure to provide, destroying or concealing information during an investigation of an alleged policy violation;
 - c. Attempting to discourage or improperly influence an individual's proper participation in, or use of, the campus conduct system;
 - d. Harassment (verbal or physical) and/or intimidation of a member of a campus conduct body prior to, during, and/or following a campus conduct proceeding;
 - e. Failure to comply with the sanction(s) imposed by the campus conduct system;
 - f. Influencing, or attempting to influence, another person to commit an abuse of the campus conduct system.
 - g. Knowingly initiating a conduct review proceeding without cause.

Respect: Savannah State University students show positive regard for each other and for the community. Behavior that violates this value includes, but is not limited to:

- 24. Acts of Physical Violence/Fighting.** Any act of physical violence against another person is strictly prohibited. Acts of physical violence include but are not limited to: fighting, assault, damage to persons or property, or acts that adversely impact another person's health or wellness.
- 25. Threatening Behaviors.** Students should not be engaged in any behavior that seeks to threaten or intimidate others.
- a. Threat. Written or verbal conduct that causes a reasonable expectation of injury to the physical health, mental health, or safety of any person or damage to any property.

- b. Intimidation. Intimidation defined as implied threats or acts that cause a reasonable fear of harm from another.
26. **Bullying and Cyber-bullying.** Bullying and cyber-bullying are repeated and/or severe aggressive behaviors that intimidate or intentionally harm or control another person physically or emotionally, and are not protected by freedom of expression.
27. **Hazing.** Defined as an act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or that destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. Participation or cooperation by the person(s) being hazed does not excuse the violation. Failing to intervene to prevent and/or failing to discourage and/or failing to report those acts may also violate this policy.
28. **Failure to Comply.** Students are subject to disciplinary action for:
- Failing to respond to a lawful request by properly identified University officials (including Community Assistants or Community Directors) or law enforcement officials in the performance of their duties;
 - Failing to report for a conference, meeting, or appointment with any University official or faculty member;
 - Failing to appear as a witness in a conduct case when properly notified;
 - Failing to comply with any sanction or condition imposed on a person by any conduct body or administrator.

Responsibility: Savannah State University students are given and accept a high level of responsibility to self, to others and to the community. Behavior that violates this value includes, but is not limited to:

29. **Alcohol.** Students are subject to disciplinary action for possessing, manufacturing, dispensing using, or selling alcoholic beverages on University property or at events sponsored by the University. Students are further prohibited from possessing any alcoholic paraphernalia (e.g., beer funnels, shot glasses, etc.), being demonstrably intoxicated from alcohol, and having empty alcoholic beverage containers on University property or at events sponsored by the University and while engaged in online instruction. Savannah State University is a “dry” campus and alcohol is prohibited on campus regardless of age, except as allowed by the Office of the University President. Student found at locations where violations are actively occurring may be held accountable for violating this policy. Please note *Student Conduct Code 4. Joint Responsibility* above.
30. **Drugs.** Students are subject to disciplinary action for manufacturing, distributing, intending to distribute, selling, offering for sale, delivering, attempting to deliver, or possessing illegal drug controlled by federal or state laws on University property or at events sponsored by the University unless as authorized by medical prescription. Students may not be under the influence of any drug (other than prescription medications, as prescribed by a medical professional). Further, students are subject to disciplinary action for possessing or using drug paraphernalia on University property or at events sponsored by the University. Student found at locations where violations are actively occurring may be held accountable for violating this policy. Please note *Student Conduct Code 4. Joint Responsibility* above.
31. **Prescription Medications.** Abuse, misuse, sale, or distribution of prescription or over-the-counter medications.
32. **Explosives.** Students are subject to conduct review for:
- Storing, possessing, furnishing, selling, or using or threatening to use explosives (sparklers, pyrotechnics, snap rocks, etc.) of any kind on University property or at University sponsored or recognized activities.

- b. Possessing or using fireworks or any substance prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, or detonation on University property or at events sponsored or supervised by the University.
33. **Acts which Endanger Self or Others.** Creation of health and/or safety hazards (dangerous pranks, hanging out of or climbing from/on/in windows, balconies, roofs, etc.) or any actions that intentionally or unintentionally jeopardize the health and safety of oneself or others is strictly prohibited.
34. **Violations of Law.** Evidence of violation of local, state or federal laws, even when not resulting in an arrest. Students are subject to disciplinary action for:
- a. Violating local, state, or federal law, on-campus, at events sponsored by the University, or at other locations whereby the misconduct clearly contravenes the University's interests and purposes. The University does not condone the violation or attempted violation of criminal laws. Alleged violations that constitute serious misdemeanor or felonies will be referred to appropriate authorities.
 - b. Failure of any student to accurately report an off-campus arrest by any law enforcement agency for any crime (including non-custodial or field arrests) to the Office of Student Conduct within seventy-two (72) hours of release.
35. **Traffic Laws.** Repeated violations of traffic laws on campus may result in the removal of on campus car privileges. Specific violations include but are not limited to:
- a. Violation of Campus and state traffic/driving regulations.
 - b. Flagrant and/or frequent parking ticket offenses.
 - c. Tampering with entry/exit gates to University parking lots.
36. **Student ID Cards/Keys.** Students must be in possession of their ID cards/University issued keys at all times while on campus. Students may also face a conduct review for:
- a. Possession, alteration, use, or attempted use of an identification card for the purpose of identification or to receive services by anyone other than the person whose name, identification card number, and photo appears on the card is considered unauthorized use and the offender will be subject to penalties and confiscation of the identification card by University officials.
 - b. Failing to present University identification upon request by an authorized University official who offered proper identification as to his or her status.
 - c. Using or attempting to use keys that were not issued to you by the University.
 - d. Failing to report an ID as lost or stolen, that is then used by another student to gain entry into a University facility or service.
 - e. Attempting/obtaining ID cards/keys for the purpose of allowing others (students or non-students) access to University facilities, events, benefits, or other items of worth.

Tradition: Savannah State students recognize the importance of our traditions and the legacy we leave for future generations of students:

37. **Dress Code.** Students are responsible to represent Savannah State appropriately and are subject to conduct review for:
- a. Failure to adhere to University's "Dress Code Policy" which states: "A student's attire while on campus, online and in public should never be lewd, indecent, or distracting to the educational environment nor (Examples: Inappropriate dress may include, but is not limited to, halter tops, shorts or skirts revealing any portion of the buttocks or genitals, shirts with obscene language or "fighting" words (including gestures or slogans), undergarments and clothing which allows undergarments to be visually observed such as pants for men and women intended to

reveal those undergarments including, sagging pants and extreme low riders”. This would also include the promotion of drugs or other substances contrary to the mission of Savannah State University.

- b. Failure to respond to request of faculty and/or properly identified University official to bring themselves in compliance of the Dress Code Policy.
38. **Ineligible Intake or Association.** Intake or associating with a student organization without having met eligibility requirements established by the University.
39. **Organization/Club Offenses.** Organizations, societies, clubs, and similarly organized groups are responsible for compliance with University regulations. Upon satisfactory proof that a group encouraged or did not take satisfactory steps to prevent violations of University regulations, that group may be subject to permanent or temporary suspension, loss of recognition or charter, social probation or other action. In addition, individual members may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of imposed sanctions.
40. **Other Policies.** Violating other published University policies or rules, including all Residence Hall policies, Residence Hall Contracts, posted rules in Dining Halls, Recreation Areas, Alexis Circle, etc.

HOUSING POLICIES

While all of the policies contained within the Code of Student Conduct apply to our student residing on campus, there are additional policies that residential students are specifically responsible to comply with. These policies are as follows:

1. **Advertising.** Residence Hall space is reserved for University Programs and Activities. All postings must be approved through the Department of University Housing and Residence Life/ Office of Student Life. All advertising must remain on designated bulletin boards. Residents are prohibited from placing advertisements on windows, walls, etc.
2. **Baby-Sitting/Child Care in the Halls.** Children are not permitted on campus for any reason. Students may not utilize University property for child-care or babysitting services.
3. **Businesses/Services.** Residence Hall/Apartment rooms may not be used for any commercial purpose by residents. This would include selling or distributing any goods or services, including but not limited to: child-care, hair or make-up salons, books (other than your personal books from classes you were previously enrolled, or any other sales. Advertising or manufacturing goods or services is strictly prohibited.
4. **Balcony/Patios.** Balconies/Patios must be kept free to debris and obstructions (Please refer to *Loitering* policy). Students are prohibited from suspending anything from a balcony or using them for drying clothes or other items. Cooking grills or unauthorized furniture are prohibited on University balconies and patios.
5. **BBQ Grills.** Students may only grill on University provided grilling surfaces. Grills are available between 10am-10pm and must be reserved at least 48 hours in advance by contacting the Resident Directors. Personal grills or George Foreman Grills are only permitted in The University Village and University Commons.
6. **Bikes/Motorcycles.** All bicycles must be properly locked up at designated bike racks and may not be attached to railings or other unauthorized locations. Bikes that are improperly secured may be removed and confiscated. All motorcycles and motor-operated vehicles must be parked in traditional parking spaces with University decals and are subject to being towed if parked elsewhere.
7. **Cable/Internet.** Students are strictly prohibited from tampering or altering University provided cable or internet services hardware. Students may not attach a satellite dish or otherwise alter any Residence Hall/Apartment.

8. ***Candles/Incense.*** Candles/Incense are strictly prohibited in all University Residence Halls/Apartments.
9. ***Cooking/Food Prep.*** Only University provided microwaves are permitted in University Apartments, students may not have microwaves in individual bedrooms. In the other residence halls, microwaves are provided in the common areas and are prohibited in residence hall rooms/suites. Students are expected to practice appropriate sanitation and cleanliness when cooking in authorized University areas. Only food items are permitted in the microwaves.
10. ***Decorations/Attachments.*** Room decorations may not be affixed to walls or windows permanently and students are responsible for any damages that occur when affixing room decorations/posters, etc. Students are prohibited from displaying signs and other decorations in windows that may be perceived as offensive or inappropriate.
11. ***Driving/Parking on Grass.*** Driving/Parking on the any grass areas is strictly prohibited and are subject to being towed/ticketed for such offenses.
12. ***Elevators.*** Tampering, misuse, or vandalism of the University elevators is strictly prohibited. This includes forcing doors open, unnecessary use of alarms/phones, horseplay, accessing control rooms or entering the shaft of an elevator. Students found to be tampering with elevators may be removed from Residence Halls.
13. ***Emergency Exits/Doors.*** Students may only use Emergency Exits during an emergency. Sounding the alarm by using an emergency exit unnecessarily will lead to disciplinary sanction, including fines. Propping doors at any time is also strictly prohibited.
14. ***Entrances/Hallways/Walkways/Grounds Obstructions.*** Students are prohibited from impeding any walkway, hallway, or entrance for any reason.
15. ***Failure to Comply with Hall Staff.*** Students must comply with any reasonable request of any University Housing Staff in the performance of their duties. Community Assistants and Resident Directors are official representatives of Savannah State University. Failing to follow reasonable directives may lead to disciplinary action which could result in removal from Residence Halls/Apartments.
16. ***Fixtures.*** Students may not display any signs, exterior lights, or markings. No awning or projection shall be attached to any building. No satellite dish or other receiving equipment may be attached to any balcony or exterior of any Residence Hall/Apartment.
17. ***Fountains.*** Tampering with University fountains constitutes vandalism and will be treated as such. Placing soap, dyes, or other contaminants may result in severe damage and financial and/or criminal liability for destruction of property.
18. ***University Furniture.*** University furniture may not be removed or relocated from Residence Hall Rooms/Apartments or common areas (lobbies, study lounges, etc.) for any reason. Students are responsible for all University furniture assigned to their living spaces. Residents are not permitted to bring their own furniture, nor are residents permitted to store any University furniture in order to make room to bring their own furniture. All University furniture must remain in the assigned location in which it was found. Students are also prohibited from blocking utility doors or closets in rooms or apartments.
19. ***Housing Contract Violations.*** Students are bound by the terms and conditions of their Housing Contract. Failure to follow the terms of the Housing Contract may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including forfeiture of University Housing.
20. ***Illegal Building Entry.*** All keys and student identification cards with residence hall access are the property of the University. Residents are prohibited at all times from

giving or loaning their keys/student identification cards to anyone for any reason. Any duplication of University keys/student identification cards is strictly prohibited. Replacement for lost keys must be reported to the individual residence hall staff/ Department of University Housing and Residence Life for which there will be a charge. For a student identification card replacement, report to the Department of Auxiliary Services.

21. **Guests.** Residents are responsible at all times for the actions of their guests. Students are expected to escort their guests at all times. Unattended guests may be asked to leave the Residence Halls/Apartments and host students may be held accountable for any misconduct by a guest, even if they are not with the guest at the time of the infraction.
22. **Misuse of Laundry Facilities.** Student Laundry Facilities are intended for University Residents ONLY. Allowing non-residents access to the Laundry Facility may result in loss of laundry privileges and disciplinary sanction. Laundry Facilities may only be used during posted hours.
23. **Loitering.** Students are prohibited from loitering in and/or around residential halls, including parking lots, balconies, stairwells, etc.
24. **Lobby Use.** Students may only use designated lobbies at times posted. Students may not use lobbies for student organization meetings or events without prior authorization from the Resident Directors and appropriate University Staff.
25. **Noise.** Students have the right to sleep and study at the time of their choosing. Students are expected to respect any request from any other student or staff to decrease the noise volume. As a general rule of thumb, students should expect to not be able to hear anything from more than one door away (in traditional residence halls). Students that create constant noise problem may be relocated to alternate residence halls and if problems persist, may be removed from the entirely.
26. **Occupancy.** Student Housing Assignments are intended to be utilized by those students that have a contract with University Housing. Residents may have no more than two guests per occupant of the room at any one time. Students are strictly prohibited from allowing other students and non-students from cohabitating for any amount of time. Cohabitation is defined as allowing others personal belongings to remain in the room, allowing others to sleep, bathe, and conduct normal tasks associated with living in a residence. Those residents found in violation of “wild-cattin’” and/or cohabitating will forfeit University Housing immediately and face disciplinary action. Both the host, the roommate(s), and the illegal guests may be held accountable for violating this policy.
27. **Prohibited Items.** The following items are strictly prohibited in any Residence Hall/Apartment:
 - Empty or Full Alcohol Containers/Shot Glasses/Glassware associated with alcohol consumption.
 - Drug Paraphernalia (scales, wrappers, rolling devices, hookahs, grinders, bongs, etc.)
 - Unapproved Appliances (Microwaves, George Foreman Grills, etc.)
 - Candles/Incense
 - Animals of any kind (other than service animals)
 - Fireworks
 - Water balloons/ water guns
 - Firearms/Weapons/Knives
 - Weights and Weightlifting Equipment

- Electronic Cigarettes
 - Exercise/ Dance Poles
28. **Pets/Animals.** Pets/Animals are strictly prohibited in Residence Halls/Apartments and surrounding areas including parking lots, green spaces, and between buildings. Students may have fish in a 10 gallon or less fish tank. Certified Service and Comfort Animals are permitted with prior authorization from the Disability Services Office as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
29. **Quiet Hours/Courtesy Hours.** Courtesy Hours are in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Students may request students to lower noise levels at any time of the day or night. Quiet Hours are as follows:
- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Sunday-Thursday | 11pm-8am |
| Friday-Saturday | 12am- 8am |
| *Final Exam Week | 24 Hours beginning the weekend prior to the start of Exam Week. |

Student violating Quiet Hours during Exam Periods may be asked to move off campus immediately as well as face disciplinary sanction.

30. **Sports in the Hallways/Walkways/Stairwells.** Students are prohibited from engaging in activities in the hallways/walkways/stairwells of Residence Halls/Apartments. These activities include, but are not limited to: running, skating, speed walking, jogging, roller blading, skateboarding, rough housing, golfing, biking, bouncing/kicking a ball, throwing a ball or Frisbee, or any other activity meant to be played in a larger space. Students engaged in these activities may be liable for any damages incurred during these incidents.
31. **Hall Solicitation.** Solicitation is prohibited in University Residence Halls/Apartments. All solicitation should be reported immediately to Hall Staff.
32. **Floor/Hall Meetings.** Students are expected to attend all Floor/Hall meetings as directed by Hall Staff. Failure to attend a Floor/Hall meeting will not be an acceptable excuse for not receiving information distributed at the meeting. Students are responsible for all information distributed at a Floor/Hall Meeting. If the meeting is taking place at time the student is unable to attend, students must contact Hall Staff prior to the meeting to receive any pertinent information. Failure to attend a designated meeting may result in a fine.
33. **Trash Removal.** Students are responsible for removal of all trash from their Residence Halls/Apartments and depositing in appropriate receptacles. Students may face fines for failure to manage their own trash appropriately.
34. **Room Sanitation.** Residents are expected to keep rooms in reasonable condition. Reasonable condition would include keeping food in appropriate containers, taking care of dishes in a timely manner, maintaining appropriate hygiene in bathrooms, kitchens, and other common areas, regularly doing laundry and other general maintenance and good house-keeping chores.
35. **Vehicle Maintenance and Cleaning.** Students are prohibited from performing vehicle maintenance and washing on University property.
36. **Visitation Policy.** Positive engagement and student interaction in the residence hall supports the academic and social development of students and serve as a means through which men and women can contribute to one another's education while forming genuine friendships. To support an atmosphere conducive to academic achievement and positive community interaction, the following standards are in place for visitation in the residence halls:
- a. Guest visits should be of limited duration regardless of the time of day. In con-

sideration of roommates and other building residents, it is important that visits not infringe on another's right to privacy, sleep and quiet student space. Roommates are expected to discuss and fill out an overnight guest form as well as receive approval from the Resident Director, prior to the guests' arrival to campus. The form will be found on-line and must be submitted 72 hours in advance to the Resident Director. The right of a student to live in reasonable privacy takes precedence over the privilege of his or her roommate to host a guest in the room. A roommate should not be compelled to leave the room to accommodate a guest, nor should he/she be placed in situations that might cause embarrassment or inconvenience. If the presence of a guest infringes on the rights of the roommate or other building residents, the guest will be required to leave the residential facility.

- b. Guests must be hosted by a current resident of the residence hall or apartment. Residents should accompany their guests at all times. Resident hosts will be held personally accountable for damages and/or violations of University policy by their guests.
 - c. Students who reside in the same residence hall may visit with one another in the rooms during the appropriate hours only. The appropriate hours will be posted on the floors, main lobbies, and emailed. Students may not sleep overnight in any residents' room.
 - d. Guests are expected to abide by all University policies at all times. The University reserves the right to remove a guest from the residence halls if the guest's behavior is considered contrary to the goals and objectives of the University, as judged by a residence life staff member or by the Department of Public Safety or another University official/designee.
 - e. All overnight guests must be at least 18 years of age, must be of the same sex as his/her host, and are normally not permitted to stay on campus for more than two consecutive nights. Overnight visits should be limited and infrequent. Overnight guests are required to register with residence hall staff and obtain a guest pass. The guest must carry picture ID and University guest pass with him/her at all times while on campus.
37. **Windows and Screens.** Students are prohibited from entering or exiting Residence Halls/ Apartments through windows. Students are prohibited from throwing objects or removing window screens for any reason. Students may not display any sign or object on the outside of a Residence Hall/Apartment window or remove a screen for any reason, other than emergency evacuation. Students are also prohibited from passing items through window.

STANDARDS FOR INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT CONDUCT INVESTIGATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

This Policy establishes minimum procedural standards for investigations and resolutions of alleged student conduct violations, which each institution must incorporate into its respective student conduct policies. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure uniformity in the quality of investigations while providing for due process that affords fairness and equity in all student conduct investigations. This Policy is not intended to infringe or restrict rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution including free speech under the First Amendment, or the due process clauses of Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

These procedures apply to matters relating to student misconduct, except matters relating to academic dishonesty, which may be covered under separate institutional policies. Institutions shall inform students of their procedures governing student misconduct complaints and investigations. For the purposes of this Policy the term Complainant means an individual who is alleged to be a victim of conduct that would violate any Board or other applicable institution policy. The term Respondent means an individual who is alleged to

have engaged in behavior that would violate any Board or other applicable institution policy. Other individuals who report information to an institution regarding alleged policy violations are deemed Reporters.

Institutions may establish to what extent the procedures outlined in this Policy may apply to Reporters.

Overview of the Conduct Process. Any member of the University community may file a complaint against any student or student organization for misconduct by contacting the Division of Student Affairs, the Office of Student Conduct, Title IX Office, Student Government Association Office, or the Department of Public Safety. All offices work collaboratively to address complaints. While a student may make a complaint to either office, certain complaints should be directed immediately to the Department of Public Safety. In particular, complaints that are of a criminal nature or that present an immediate danger to the safety and well-being of the complainant or any other individual or any property should be directed immediately to the Department of Public Safety (358-3004). A complainant can discuss the matter with the Division of Student Affairs or the Office of Student Conduct. If a student has any doubt about the nature or seriousness of a complaint, any of these offices are willing to receive the information. Nevertheless, complaints should be submitted as soon as possible after the incident has taken place. The administrator and/ or staff person with whom the complainant discusses the incident will demonstrate an ethic of care and concern. Students and other complainants should be forthright in discussing the incident. Although the complaint can be discussed orally, it must be subsequently reduced to a written statement.

Reports of Student Misconduct. Institutions must provide clear notice to students and other campus community members as to how to file complaints of misconduct.

Complaints to the appropriate department and/or person(s) should include as much information as possible – such as: (1) the type of misconduct alleged; (2) the name and contact information of the individual(s) accused of misconduct; (3) the date(s), time(s), and place(s) of the misconduct; (4) the name(s) and contact information of any individual(s) with knowledge of the incident; (5) whether any tangible evidence has been preserved; and (6) whether a criminal complaint has been made.

Information from complaints may be shared as necessary to investigate and to resolve the alleged misconduct. Complaints shall be investigated and resolved as outlined below. The need to issue a broader warning to the community in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (“Clery Act”) shall be assessed in compliance with federal law.

Where appropriate, Complainants may file a law enforcement report as well as an institutional report, but are not required to file both.

Confidentiality: Where a Complainant (where applicable) requests that their identity be withheld or the allegation(s) not be investigated, the institution should consider whether or not such request(s) can be honored while still promoting a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for the institution and conducting an effective review of the allegations. The institution should inform the requesting party that the institution cannot guarantee confidentiality and that even granting requests for confidentiality shall not prevent the institution from reporting information or statistical data as required by law, including the Clery Act.

Retaliation: Anyone who has made a report or complaint, provided information, assisted, participated or refused to participate in any investigation or resolution under applicable Board or institution policy shall not be subjected to retaliation. Anyone who believes they have been subjected to retaliation should immediately contact the appropriate department or individual(s) for that institution. Any person found to have engaged in retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action, pursuant to the institution’s policy.

False Complaints/Statements: Individuals are prohibited from knowingly giving false statements to an institution official. Any person found to have knowingly submitted false complaints, accusations, or statements, including during a hearing, in violation of applicable Board or institution policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action (up to and including suspension or expulsion) and adjudicated pursuant to the institution's policy.

Amnesty: Students should be encouraged to come forward and report violations of the law and/or student code of conduct notwithstanding their choice to consume alcohol or drugs. Information reported by a student during the conduct process concerning their consumption of drugs or alcohol will not be voluntarily reported to law enforcement; nor will information that the individual provides be used against the individual for purposes of conduct violations. Nevertheless, these students may be required to meet with staff members regarding the incident and may be required to participate in appropriate educational program(s). The required participation in an educational program under this amnesty procedure will not be considered a sanction. Nothing in this amnesty procedure shall prevent a university staff member who is otherwise obligated by law (the Clery Act) to report information or statistical data as required.

Safe Harbor. Savannah State University has a Safe Harbor rule for students. The University believes that students who have a drug and/or addiction problem deserve help. If any University student brings their own use, addiction, or dependency to the attention of University officials outside the threat of drug tests or conduct sanctions and seeks assistance, a conduct complaint will not be pursued. A written action plan may be used to track cooperation with the Safe Harbor program by the student. Failure to follow the action plan will nullify the Safe Harbor protection and campus conduct processes may be initiated.

Retaliation. Anyone who, in good faith, reports what she or he believes to be student misconduct, participates or cooperates in, or is otherwise associated with any investigation, shall not be subjected to retaliation. Anyone who believes he or she has been the target of retaliation for reporting, participating or cooperating in, or otherwise being associated with an investigation should immediately contact the Office of Student Conduct. Any person found to have engaged in retaliation in violation of the student conduct policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, pursuant to University policy.

Disciplinary Records. All conduct records are maintained by the University for seven (7) years from the time of their creation except those that result in separation (suspension or expulsion, including from housing) and those that fall under Title IX, which are maintained indefinitely.

PROCESS FOR INVESTIGATING AND RESOLVING DISPUTED REPORTS.

Jurisdiction: Each institution shall take necessary and appropriate action to protect the safety and well-being of its community. Accordingly, student conduct should be addressed when such acts occur on institution property, at institution-sponsored or affiliated events, or otherwise violate the institution's student conduct policies, regardless as to where such conduct occurs. If the student has admitted responsibility and has voluntarily decided to participate in the informal process, the procedures outlined in this section will not apply.

Access to Advisors: The Respondent and Complainant (where applicable), as parties to these proceedings, shall have the right to have an advisor (who may or may not be an attorney) of the party's choosing, and at their own expense, for the express purpose of providing advice and counsel. The advisor may be present during meetings and proceedings during the investigatory and/or resolution process at which his or her advisee is present. The advisor may advise their advisee in any manner, including providing questions, suggestions, and guidance on responses to any questions posed to the advisee, but shall not participate directly during the investigation or hearing process.

Initial Evaluation of Student Conduct Reports: Regardless of how an institution becomes aware of alleged misconduct, the institution shall ensure a prompt, fair, and impartial review and resolution of complaints alleging student misconduct. Where a report of student misconduct has been made to the appropriate department and/or person, the institution shall review the complaint to determine whether the allegation(s) describes conduct in violation of the institution's policies and/or code of conduct. If the reported conduct would not be a violation of the institution's policies and/or code of conduct, even if true, then the report should be dismissed. Otherwise, a prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation, and review shall be conducted into each complaint received to determine whether charges against the Respondent should be brought.

Any report that involves allegation(s) of conduct that could lead to the suspension or expulsion of the Respondent(s) in an initial violation must be promptly reported to the System Director of Equity & Investigations ("System Director") by the institution. The System Director will work with the institution to determine whether any interim measure(s) are necessary, to assign an investigator and may collaboratively supervise the investigation with the appropriate institution professional (e.g., the Title IX Coordinator, Dean of Students). If an allegation is not initially identified as one that could lead to suspension or expulsion of the Respondent(s), but facts arise during the course of the investigation that would require notice to the System Director, then the institution shall report that case to the System Director or their designee prior to proceeding.

Interim Measures: Interim measures may be implemented by the institution at any point after the institution becomes aware of the alleged student misconduct and should be designed to protect any student or other individuals in the USG community. To the extent interim measures are imposed, they should minimize the burden on both the Complainant (where applicable) and the Respondent, where feasible. Interim measures may include, but are not limited to:

1. Change of housing assignment;
2. Issuance of a "no contact" directive;
3. Restrictions or bars to entering certain institution property;
4. Changes to academic or employment arrangements, schedules, or supervision;
5. Interim suspension; and
6. Other measures designed to promote the safety and well-being of the parties and the institution's community.

An interim suspension should only occur where necessary to maintain safety and should be limited to those situations where the respondent poses a serious and immediate danger or threat to persons or property. In making such an assessment, the institution should consider the existence of a significant risk to the health or safety of the Complainant (where applicable) or the campus community; the nature, duration, and severity of the risk; the probability of potential injury; and whether less restrictive means can be used to significantly mitigate the risk.

Before an interim suspension is issued, the institution must make all reasonable efforts to give the Respondent the opportunity to be heard on whether the Respondent's presence on campus poses a danger. If an interim suspension is issued, the terms of the suspension take effect immediately. The Respondent shall receive notice of the interim suspension and the opportunity to respond to the interim suspension.

Within three business days of receiving a challenge the institution will determine whether the interim suspension should continue.

Investigation

Throughout any investigation and resolution proceedings, a party shall receive written notice of the alleged misconduct, shall be provided an opportunity to respond, and shall

be allowed to remain silent or otherwise not participate in or during the investigation and resolution process without an adverse inference resulting. If a party chooses to remain silent or otherwise not participate in an investigation, the investigation may still proceed and policy charges may still result and be resolved. Timely and equal access to information that will be used during the investigation will be provided to the Complainant (where applicable) and Respondent.

Where the potential sanctions for the alleged misconduct may involve a suspension or expulsion (even if such sanctions were to be held "in abeyance," such as probationary suspension or expulsion) the institution's investigation and resolution procedures must provide the additional minimal safeguards outlined below.

1. The Complainant (where applicable) and Respondent shall be provided with written notice of the complaint/allegations, pending investigation, possible charges, possible sanctions, and available support services. The notice should also include the identity of any investigator(s) involved. Notice should be provided via institution email to the address on file.
2. Upon receipt of the written notice, the Respondent shall have at least three business days to respond in writing. In that response, the Respondent shall have the right to admit or to deny the allegations, and to set forth a defense with facts, witnesses, and supporting materials. A non-response will be considered a general denial of the alleged misconduct. Any Complainant (where applicable) shall also be provided three business days to respond to or supplement the notice.
3. If the Respondent admits responsibility, the process may proceed to the sanctioning phase or may be informally resolved, if appropriate.
4. If at any point the investigator determines there is insufficient evidence to support a charge or to warrant further consideration of discipline, then the complaint should be dismissed.
5. An investigator shall conduct a thorough investigation and should retain written notes and/or obtain written or recorded statements from each interview. The investigator shall also keep a record of any party's proffered witnesses not interviewed, along with a brief, written explanation of why the witnesses were not interviewed.
6. The initial investigation report shall be provided to the Respondent and the Complainant (where applicable). This report should clearly indicate any resulting charges (or alternatively, a determination of no charges), as well as the facts and evidence in support thereof, witness statements, and possible sanctions. For purposes of this Policy, a charge is not a finding of responsibility, but indicates that there is sufficient evidence to warrant further consideration and adjudication.
7. The final investigation report should be provided to the misconduct panel or hearing officer for consideration in adjudicating the charges brought against the Respondent. A copy shall also be provided to the respondent and Complainant (where applicable) before any hearing. The investigator may testify as a witness regarding the investigation and findings, but shall otherwise have no part in the hearing process and shall not attempt to otherwise influence the proceedings outside of providing testimony during the hearing.

Resolution/Hearing

In no case shall a hearing to resolve charge(s) of student misconduct take place before the investigative report has been finalized.

Where the Respondent indicates that they contest the charges, the matter shall be set for a hearing and once the investigative report has been finalized and copies provided to the Respondent and Complainant (where applicable); however, the Complainant (where applicable) and Respondent may have the option of selecting informal resolution as a possible resolution in certain student misconduct cases where they mutually agree, except where deemed inappropriate by the Vice President for Student Affairs (or their designee) or the System Director.

Where a case is not resolved through informal resolution or informal resolution is not available due to the nature of the charges, the Respondent shall have the option of having the charges heard either by an administrator (Hearing Officer) or a Hearing Panel. If an administrative hearing is requested, the Respondent shall use their discretion to determine whether the case should be heard by a Hearing Panel. Notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing shall be provided to the Respondent and Complainant (where applicable) at least five business days prior to the hearing. Notice shall be provided via institution email where applicable. Hearings shall be conducted in person or via conferencing technology as reasonably available. Additionally, the following standards will apply to any such hearing:

The Respondent and Complainant (where applicable) shall have the right to present witnesses and evidence to the hearing officer or panel. Witness testimony, if provided, shall pertain to knowledge and facts directly associated with the case being heard. The Respondent and Complainant (where applicable) shall have the right to confront any witnesses, including the other party, by submitting written questions to the Hearing Officer or Hearing Panel for consideration. Advisors may actively assist in drafting questions. The Hearing Officer or Hearing Panel shall ask the questions as written and will limit questions only if they are unrelated to determining the veracity of the charge leveled against the Respondent(s). In any event, the Hearing Officer or Hearing Panel shall err on the side of asking all submitted questions and must document the reason for not asking any particular questions.

1. Where the Hearing Officer or Hearing Panel determines that a party or witness is unavailable and unable to be present due to extenuating circumstances, the Hearing Officer or Hearing Panel may establish special procedures for providing testimony from a separate location. In doing so, the Hearing Officer or Hearing Panel must determine whether there is a valid basis for the unavailability, ensure proper sequestration in a manner that ensures testimony has not been tainted, and make a determination that such an arrangement will not unfairly disadvantage any party. Should it be reasonably believed that a party or witness who is not physically present has presented tainted testimony, the Hearing Officer or Hearing Panel will disregard or discount the testimony.
2. Formal judicial rules of evidence do not apply to the investigatory or resolution process.
3. The standard of review shall be a preponderance of the evidence.
4. Institutions should maintain documentation of the proceedings, which may include written findings of fact, transcripts, audio recordings, and/or video recordings.
5. Following a hearing, both the Respondent and Complainant (where applicable) shall be simultaneously provided a written decision via institution email (where applicable) of the outcome and any resulting sanctions. The decision should include details on how to appeal, as outlined below. Additionally, the written de-

cision must summarize the evidence relied on in support of the outcome and the rationale for the resulting sanction. The same form will be completed, regardless of whether the student opts for a hearing panel or an administrative proceeding.

STUDENT CONDUCT AUTHORITY

The Vice President for Student Affairs is responsible to the President for the supervision, administration, and operation of University policy related to student misconduct. There are five tribunals that have authority to adjudicate certain kinds of student misconduct.

These conduct review bodies are as follows:

Coordinator of Student Conduct. The Coordinator of Student Conduct is the University's primary conduct review administrator. The Coordinator of Student Conduct has authority to receive complaints on student misconduct, direct such investigations as may seem appropriate, summon students who are directly involved or have knowledge of misconduct, and serve as a hearing officer. At the conclusion of an investigation, it is the responsibility of the Coordinator of Student Conduct to determine whether to take no action, refer the matter to an appropriate internal or external agency/department, or issue a charge to a student for violating the Code of Student Conduct. Depending on the nature of the misconduct, the Coordinator of Student Conduct will determine if the case can be adjudicated either administratively by mutual consent of all parties involved or formally. For clarity of purpose, less severe cases of misconduct can be resolved and/or adjudicated administratively. In such cases, the Coordinator of Student Conduct can impose any sanction on the student. Certain less severe cases may be resolved by mutual consent of all parties involved, such as, but not limited to, mediation sessions or mandatory counseling from the Office of Counseling Services. In the event there is no mutual consent to resolve the incident, the case will be referred to either the University Conduct Review Board or the Student Government Association Judicial Branch, depending on the nature of the offense. The Coordinator of Student Conduct will determine which adjudicating body will preside over a given case, within specific parameters as directed by the Vice-President for Student Affairs. Specifically, all cases that would likely result in a Suspension or Expulsion, if the student were found responsible, will automatically be referred to the University Conduct Review Board. Examples of cases that would fall under automatic University Conduct Review Board purview include, but are not limited to: physical assault or violence, drug distribution, bullying or harassment, weapons, repeat offenders, or any other issue that presents a clear and present danger to the campus community or individuals.

University Conduct Review Board. The University Conduct Review Board (UCRB), which is comprised of faculty, staff, and students, has jurisdiction for hearing cases involving alleged violations of the Code of Student Conduct. Through the Coordinator of Student Conduct, the Board has authority to summon any member of the University community as a witness in a case of student misconduct. The University Conduct Review Board is comprised of faculty members, staff members, and student representatives. Faculty and Staff board members are volunteers and are vetted through the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and/or Human Resources. Student members are selected by Student Government or appointed by the Office of Student Conduct. All members are appointed to a one-year term. These individuals form the pool from which the University Conduct Review Board is selected to hear cases. The adjudication panel itself consists of faculty members/staff members and students. A hearing panel will consist of no less than three members, one of which must be a student representative. The UCRB will have a chairman who is appointed by the Coordinator for Student Conduct for each hearing. In the event that a scheduled panel member is unable to attend a hearing, all parties in the hearing will have the option to move forward with the panel members present or to reschedule the hearing. All charged students must agree to proceed with a hearing. If anyone disagrees with moving forward, the hearing will be rescheduled to facilitate a full UCRB panel. The University's staff member tasked with investigating allegations of student misconduct is not be responsi-

ble for training University Conduct Review Board members or appellate body members. This training will be conducted by an alternate member of the Division of Student Affairs.

Student Government Association Judiciary. The Student Government Association (SGA) Judiciary has authority to hear and adjudicate Housing Policy student misconduct allegations that have been referred to it in conjunction to the Residential Judicial Board. Members of the SGA Judiciary shall be available to serve on both the Residential and University Conduct Review Boards. The Chief Justice shall chair such cases. In his/her absence, the senior member of the Student Judiciary will chair the hearing. The Coordinator of Student Conduct will serve as an advisor to the SGA Judiciary during all cases. The Student Judiciary consists of nine members as follows: the chief justice who is elected by the student body and eight associate justices, all of whom are appointed by the chief justice and approved by the SGA Congress. Five members of the judiciary, one of which must be the chief justice or the senior justice, must be present in order to conduct a hearing. The SGA judiciary is empowered to hear Housing Policy cases of misconduct.

Hearing Officers. Hearing Officers, appointed by the Dean of Students or his/her designee, are staff and faculty members who have authority to receive complaints on student misconduct, direct such investigations as may seem appropriate, and summon students who are directly involved or have knowledge of misconduct, and serve as a hearing officer. At the conclusion of an investigation, it is the responsibility of the hearing officer to determine whether to take no action, refer the matter to an appropriate internal or external agency/department, or issue a charge to a student for violating the Code of Student Conduct. Depending on the nature of the misconduct, the hearing officer will determine if the case can be adjudicated either administratively by mutual consent of all parties involved or formally. For clarity of purpose, less severe cases of misconduct can be resolved and/or adjudicated administratively. In such cases, the hearing officer can impose any sanction on the student. Certain less severe cases may be resolved by mutual consent of all parties involved, such as, but not limited to, mediation sessions or mandatory counseling from the Office of Counseling and Disability Services. In the event there is no mutual consent to resolve the incident, the case will be decided by the hearing officer or referred to either the UCRB or the Student Government Association Judiciary, depending on the nature of the offense. For formal hearings, a hearing officer is empowered to issue sanctions when a student is found responsible for violating the Code of Student Conduct. Hearing Officers are empowered to hear violations of the Code of Student Conduct and Housing Policy violations.

Resident Directors. Each residence hall on campus is supervised by full time professional Resident Directors. Resident Directors have full authority to adjudicate any violations of Housing Policy that occur in or around University Housing Facilities. Resident Directors will only hear cases involving violations of Housing Policy and minor Code of Student Conduct violations. Resident Directors will be assigned cases at the discretion of the Director of Housing in consultation with the Coordinator of Student Conduct.

Adjudication of Academic Dishonesty Cases. The rights and responsibilities of academic freedom are at the core of intellectual integrity of the institution. Students are expected to behave honestly during the learning process in order to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty undermine Savannah State's educational value for everyone, and especially for the individual who cheats. Misunderstanding of appropriate academic conduct will not be accepted as an excuse for academic dishonesty. Students should consult with the instructor in the course, the department chair/program director, or the academic dean if there is doubt about appropriate academic conduct. Procedures for adjudication of violations of academic dishonesty are available in the Office of Academic Affairs.

Conduct Issues with Underlying Mental Health Concerns. When in the course of a conduct review process, it becomes evident that a student has underlying mental health

concerns, the University reserves the right to refer such cases to the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) for review. This body is comprised of members of the University Counseling, Law Enforcement, Student Affairs, and Academic Affairs. This body will make an appropriate determination and work with senior Student Affairs staff to facilitate an appropriate outcome that serves the interest of the individual student as well as the rest of the student body. For more information on the BIT, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students (King-Frazier Student Center, room 247).

ORDER OF HEARING

In adjudicating formal cases, all tribunals/hearing officers will proceed in the following order:

1. Call to order by the chairperson or Coordinator of Student Conduct;
2. Reading of the charge(s) and specification of the alleged incident of misconduct by the Chairperson or Coordinator of Student Conduct;
3. Presentation of the complainant's case, including presentation of witness, by the Coordinator of Student Conduct;
4. Presentation of the accused student's case, including presentation of witnesses;
5. Closing statement by the complainant;
6. Closing statement by the accused student;
7. Adjournment; and
8. Deliberation by tribunal.

During the hearing, members of the tribunal may raise questions to either the complainant or accused student as well as any witnesses. This is done at the direction of the chair. There is no right of one party to cross-examine the other party or witnesses but questions to consider and ask may be suggested to the Chair and panel by the parties in writing prior to or during the actual hearing. The respondent and alleged victim (where applicable), as parties to these proceedings, shall have the right to use an advisor (including an attorney) of his or her choosing, and at his or her own expense, for the express purpose of providing advice and counsel. The advisor may be present during meetings and proceedings during the investigatory and/or resolution process at which his or her advisee is present. The advisor may advise his or her advisee in any manner, including providing questions, suggestions, and guidance on responses to any questions of the advisee, but shall not participate directly. The institution shall not prohibit family members of a party from attending if the party requests such attendance, but may limit each participant to two family members.

Burden of Proof. Students will be presumed not responsible until proven otherwise by a preponderance of evidence. During the hearing, the burden of proof rests upon the University official and/or complainant bringing the charges. During the deliberation, the conduct body shall determine, by majority vote (if the conduct body consists of more than one person), whether the student violated the particular section of the Code of Student Conduct. The conduct body's determination shall be made on the basis of whether it is "more likely than not" that the accused student violated the Code of Student Conduct. Any decision to suspend or to expel a student must also be supported by substantial evidence at the hearing.

Rules of Evidence and Procedure. Most aspects of the University's conduct review system differ sharply from those found at state and other outside conduct systems. Colleges and universities, however, adhere to fairness and due process. Nevertheless, formal civil rules of evidence and procedures followed by courts of law shall not be applicable during investigations or hearings. All matters upon which the decision may be based must be introduced into evidence at the proceeding before the tribunal hearing the case.

The decision of the tribunal shall be based solely upon such matters. Improperly acquired evidence shall not be admitted. The adjudicating body may exclude evidence that in its judgment is immaterial, irrelevant, or unduly repetitious.

Privacy of Proceedings. All informal and formal hearings shall be conducted in private in order to protect the confidential nature of the proceedings, unless the defendant elects to have an open hearing. If the latter is the case, such a request must be in writing by the defendant. However, state and federal laws pertaining to open hearings takes precedence over either the defendants' or the victims' request for an open or closed hearing.

Record of the Proceeding. There shall be a record, written findings of fact, transcripts, audio recordings and/or video recordings, of all formal hearings before a University Conduct Review Board. The record shall be the property of the University.

The Decision. The student shall be notified in writing of the decision within three days of the conduct review body's decision. All cases, except those adjudicated by the Coordinator of Student Conduct or a hearing officer, will be decided by majority vote as to both findings and sanctions. The victim or victims have the opportunity to learn of the decision through the Coordinator of Student Conduct. Every student shall also be advised in writing of his/her right to appeal the decision.

Disciplinary Status. Upon a determination that a student has violated the Code of Student Conduct or Housing Policies, every student will be placed on one of the following Disciplinary Statuses:

Written Warning. A written statement by the Office of Student Conduct that a student's behavior has been inappropriate, and that any further violation of University standards will result in stronger disciplinary action.

Residence Hall Probation. Students may be placed on Residence Hall Probation for repeated or serious violations of either the Code of Student Conduct or Housing Policies. Students placed on Residence Hall Probation will receive notice in writing and the probation will be for a defined period of time. While on Residence Hall Probation, further violations of either the Code of Student Conduct or Housing Policies may result in removal from University Housing and/or the University.

Residence Hall Suspension. Separation of the student from the residence halls or residence facilities owned by or operated for the institution for a specified length of time, after which the student may be eligible to return. In instances when a student is suspended from a residence facility, he or she may not transfer to another residence facility owned by or operated for the University.

Residence Hall Expulsion. Permanent separation of the student from the residence halls or residence facilities owned or operated by the institution. In instances when a student is expelled from a residence facility, he or she may not transfer to another residence facility owned by or operated for the University.

University Probation. Students may be placed on University Probation for repeated or serious violations of either the Code of Student Conduct or Housing Policies. Students placed on University Probation will receive notice in writing and the probation will be for a defined period of time. While on University Probation, further violations of either the Code of Student Conduct or Housing Policies may result in removal from the University.

University Suspension. Separation from the University for a stated period of time, with conditions of readmission stated in the notice of suspension. Students who are suspended from the University shall be denied access to the institution, including its facilities, grounds, residence halls, activities, or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible. After the period of suspension has expired, a student may apply in writing to have the suspension notation on his or her transcript removed.

University Expulsion. Permanent separation of the student from the University. Stu-

dents who are expelled from the University shall be denied access to the institution, including its facilities, grounds, residence halls, activities, or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible. The expulsion notation on the transcript may be permanently posted as determined by the president.

Disciplinary Sanctions. In determining the severity of sanctions or corrective actions the following should be considered: the frequency, severity, and/or nature of the offense, history of past conduct, an offender's willingness to accept responsibility, previous institutional response to similar conduct, and the institution's interests. The student conduct panel or hearing officer will determine sanctions and issue notice of the same, as outlined above. The broad range of sanctions includes: expulsion; suspension for an identified time frame or until satisfaction of certain conditions, or both; temporary or permanent separation of the parties (e.g., change in classes, reassignment of residence, no contact orders, limiting geography of where parties can go on campus) with additional sanctions for violating orders; required participation in sensitivity training/awareness education programs; required participation in alcohol and other drug awareness and abuse prevention programs; counseling or mentoring; volunteering/ community service; loss of institutional privileges; delays in obtaining administrative services and benefits from the institution (e.g., holding transcripts, delaying registration, graduation, diplomas); additional academic requirements relating to scholarly work or research; financial restitution; or any other discretionary sanctions directly related to the violation or conduct. Disciplinary sanctions, cited above are listed below and described in greater detail, may be imposed, either singularly or in a combination, by the appropriate conduct review body. These sanctions are not all-inclusive:

Restitution. A monetary penalty assessed against the student to cover the cost of services or replacing physical property of the University or student or staff victims which has been stolen, damaged intentionally, or damaged as a result of gross negligence (In cases where the damage is in areas such as residence halls and lounges used jointly by groups of students, and the person responsible for the damage or theft is not known, the penalty may be applied against all students using the facility on a pro rata basis). The payment of a fine by a student or group of students shall in no way negate the right of the University to seek restitution for damages through appropriate civil proceedings.

Mandatory Educational/Community service. A mandatory participation in a specific educational program, work assignment, or the completion of a research-related assignment. The student is responsible for all related expenses. Failure to comply with the educational/ community service sanction could result in suspension from the University.

Loss of Privileges. Denial of specified privileges for a designated period of time. Loss of privileges may include, but is not limited to: the ability to have guests on campus, attend programs or events, or otherwise participate in University functions.

Organization Deactivation. Loss of privileges, including University recognition for a specific period of time or permanently. Loss of privileges may include, but is not limited to a prohibition on social events, fund-raising projects, intramural events, and completion of community service hours and special projects.

Fines. Reasonable fines may be imposed. As fines are a sanction, fines may not be substituted with Community Service. Failure to meet fine obligations will result in a financial hold being placed on a student's account that will prevent registration and other University business from being completed.

Confiscation of Prohibited Property. Items whose presence is in violation of University policy will be confiscated and will become the property of the University. Prohibited items may be returned to the owner at the discretion of the Coordinator of Student Conduct and/or Campus Police.

Behavioral Requirement. This includes required activities including, but not limited to,

seeking academic counseling or substance abuse screening, writing a letter of apology, etc.

Educational Program. Requirement to attend, present and/or participate in a program related to the violation. It may also be a requirement to sponsor or assist with a program for others on campus to aid them in learning about a specific topic or issue related to the violation for which the student or organization was found responsible. Audience may be restricted.

Administrative Housing Move. If a student has repeated or egregious Housing Policy violations, a Conduct Officer may choose to conduct an Administrative Housing Move to another Savannah State University housing facility. Residence will be responsible for any additional charges that result from this conduct sanction. Should a resident wish not to comply with the Administrative Housing Move, that student may choose to move off campus, however they would also be responsible for any administrative charges applicable to early contract termination. Housing staff will decide on the reassignment details.

Eligibility Restriction. The student is deemed “not in good standing” with Savannah State University for a specified period of time. Specific limitations or exceptions may be granted by the Coordinator of Student Conduct and terms of this conduct sanction may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ineligibility to hold any office in any student organization recognized by the University or hold an elected or appointed office at Savannah State University; or
- Ineligibility to represent Savannah State University to anyone outside the University community in any way including: participating in the study abroad program, attending conferences, or representing the University at an official function, event or inter-collegiate competition as a player, manager or student coach, etc.

Other Sanctions. Additional or alternate sanctions may be created and designed as deemed appropriate to the offense with the approval of the Coordinator of Student Conduct or designee.

The Coordinator of Student Conduct and/or the Hearing Officer will inform the student of the sanctions in writing. The student will also be informed of the appeal procedure. The findings of the Coordinator of Student Conduct and/or the Hearing Officer will be final unless the student chooses to appeal the decision.

Group Violations. A student group or organization and its officers and membership may be held collectively and individually responsible when violations of this code by the organization or its member(s):

- Take place at organization-sponsored or co-sponsored events, whether sponsorship is formal or tacit;
- Have received the consent or encouragement of the organization or of the organization’s leaders or officers; or
- Were known or should have been known to the membership or its officers.
- Organization fails to take official and/or appropriate disciplinary action against involved member(s).

Hearings for student groups or organizations follow the same general student conduct procedures. In any such action, individual determinations as to responsibility will be made and sanctions may be assigned collectively and individually and will be proportionate to the involvement of each individual and the organization. The following sanctions may be imposed upon groups or organizations found to have violated the Code of Student Conduct:

- One or more of the sanctions listed above
- Deactivation, de-recognition, loss of all privileges (including status as a Savannah State University registered group/organization), for a specified period of time.

APPEALS

Appeals may be made in any cases where sanctions are issued, even when such sanctions are held “in abeyance,” such as probationary or expulsion. Where the sanction imposed includes a suspension or expulsion (even for one held in abeyance), the following appellate procedures must be provided.

The Respondent (and in cases involving sexual misconduct or other forms of discrimination and/or harassment, the Complainant) shall have the right to appeal the outcome on any of the following grounds: (1) to consider new information, sufficient to alter the decision, or other relevant facts not brought out in the original hearing (or appeal), because such information was not known or knowable to the person appealing during the time of the hearing (or appeal); (2) to allege a procedural error within the hearing process that may have substantially impacted the fairness of the hearing (or appeal), including but not limited to whether any hearing questions were improperly excluded or whether the decision was tainted by a conflict of interest or bias by the Title IX Coordinator, Conduct Officer, investigator(s), decision maker(s); or (3) to allege that the finding was inconsistent with the weight of the information. The appeal must be made in writing, must set forth one or more of the bases outlined above, and must be submitted within five business days of the date of the final written decision. The appeal should be made to the institution’s President or their designee.

The appeal shall be a review of the record only, and no new meeting with the Respondent or any Complainant is required. The President or their designee may affirm the original finding and sanction, affirm the original finding but issue a new sanction of greater or lesser severity, remand the case back to any lower decision maker to correct a procedural or factual defect, or reverse or dismiss the case if there was a procedural or factual defect that cannot be remedied by remand. The President or their designee’s decision shall be simultaneously issued in writing to the parties within a reasonable time period. The President or their designee’s decision shall be the final decision of the institution.

Should the Respondent or Complainant (where applicable) wish to appeal the final institutional decision, they may request review by the Board of Regents in accordance with the Board of Regents’ Policy on Discretionary Review.

Appeals received after the designated deadlines above will not be considered unless the institution or Board of Regents has granted an extension prior to the deadline. If an appeal is not received by the deadline the last decision on the matter will become final.

RECUSAL/CHALLENGE FOR BIAS

Any party may challenge the participation of any institution official, employee or student panel member in the process on the grounds of personal bias by submitting a written statement to the institution’s designee setting forth the basis for the challenge. The designee shall not be the same individual responsible for investigating or adjudicating the conduct allegation. The written challenge should be submitted within a reasonable time after the individual knows or reasonably should have known of the existence of the bias. The institution’s designee will determine whether to sustain or deny the challenge and, if sustained, the replacement to be appointed.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA & SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY

In accordance with federal and state law including, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”) and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), the University System of Georgia (USG) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any of its education programs or activities or in employment. The USG is committed to ensuring the highest ethical conduct of the members of its community by promoting a safe learning and working environment. To that end, this Policy prohibits Sexual Misconduct, a form of sex discrimination, as defined herein.

USG institutions are committed to reducing incidents of Sexual Misconduct, providing prevention tools, conducting ongoing awareness and prevention programming, and training the campus community in accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (“Clery Act”) and the Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”). Prevention programming and training will promote positive and healthy behaviors and educate the campus community on consent, sexual assault, sexual harassment, alcohol and drug use, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, bystander intervention, and reporting.

When Sexual Misconduct does occur, all members of the USG community are strongly encouraged to report it promptly through the procedures outlined in this Policy. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure uniformity throughout the USG in reporting and addressing Sexual Misconduct. This Policy applies to all members of the USG community. This Policy is not intended to infringe or restrict rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution including free speech under the First Amendment, or the due process clauses of Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

Reporting Structure

Title IX Coordinators (“Coordinators”) at USG institutions shall have a direct reporting relationship to both the institution’s President or the President’s designee and the USG System Director for Equity and Investigations (“System Director”). The President of each institution shall determine the organizational and operating reporting relationships for the Coordinators at the institution and exercise oversight of institutional issues relating to Sexual Misconduct. However, the System Director shall have authority to direct the Coordinators’ work at each institution as needed to address system-wide issues or directives. The President of each institution shall consult with the System Director on significant personnel actions involving Coordinators, to include but not be limited to, appointment, evaluation, discipline, change in reporting structure, and termination.

DEFINITIONS AND PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Community: Students, faculty, and staff, as well as contractors, vendors, visitors and guests.

Complainant: An individual who is alleged to have experienced conduct that violates this Policy.

Consent: Words or actions that show a knowing and voluntary willingness to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity. Consent cannot be gained by force, intimidation or coercion; by ignoring or acting in spite of objections of another; or by taking advantage of the incapacitation of another where the respondent knows or reasonably should have known of such incapacitation. Minors under the age of 16 cannot legally consent under Georgia law.

Consent is also absent when the activity in question exceeds the scope of consent previously given. Past consent does not imply present or future consent. Silence or an absence of resistance does not imply consent.

Consent can be withdrawn at any time by a party by using clear words or actions.

Dating Violence: Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the alleged victim. The existence of such relationship shall be determined based on the totality of the circumstances including, without limitation to: (1) the length of the relationship; (2) the type of relationship; and (3) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of Domestic Violence.

Domestic Violence: Violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the alleged victim; by a person with whom the alleged victim shares a child in common; by a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, or by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the alleged victim.

Incapacitation: The physical and/or mental inability to make informed, rational judgments. It can result from mental disability, sleep or any state of unconsciousness, involuntary physical restraint, status as a minor under the age of 16, or from intentional or unintentional taking of alcohol and/or other drugs. Whether someone is incapacitated is to be judged from the perspective of an objectively reasonable person.

Nonconsensual Sexual Contact: Any physical contact with another person of a sexual nature without the person's consent. It includes but is not limited to the touching of a person's intimate parts (for example, genitalia, groin, breasts, or buttocks); touching a person with one's own intimate parts; or forcing a person to touch his or her own or another person's intimate parts. This provision also includes "Fondling" as defined by the Clery Act.

Nonconsensual Sexual Penetration: Any penetration of the vagina, anus, or mouth by a penis, object, tongue, finger, or other body part; or contact between the mouth of one person and the genitals or anus of another person. This provision also includes "Rape, Incest, and Statutory Rape" as defined by the Clery Act.

Confidential Employees: Institution employees who have been designated by the institution to talk with a Complainant or Respondent in confidence. Confidential Employees must only report that the incident occurred and provide date, time, location, and name of the Respondent (if known) without revealing any information that would personally identify the alleged victim. This minimal reporting must be submitted in compliance with Title IX and the Clery Act. Confidential Employees may be required to fully disclose details of an incident in order to ensure campus safety.

Privileged Employees: Individuals employed by the institution to whom a complainant or alleged victim may talk in confidence, as provided by law. Disclosure to these employees will not automatically trigger an investigation against the complainant's or alleged victim's wishes. Privileged Employees include those providing counseling, advocacy, health, mental health, or sexual-assault related services (e.g., sexual assault resource centers, campus health centers, pastoral counselors, and campus mental health centers) or as otherwise provided by applicable law. Exceptions to confidentiality exist where the conduct involves suspected abuse of a minor (in Georgia, under the age of 18) or otherwise provided by law, such as imminent threat of serious harm.

Reasonable Person: An individual who is objectively reasonable under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the person being evaluated by the institution.

Reporter: An individual who reports an allegation of conduct that may violate this Policy but who is not a party to the complaint.

Respondent: An individual who is alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates this

Policy.

Responsible Employees: Those employees who must promptly and fully report complaints of or information regarding sexual misconduct to the Coordinator. Responsible Employees include any administrator, supervisor, faculty member, or other person in a position of authority who is not a Confidential Employee or Privileged Employee. Student employees who serve in a supervisory, advisory, or managerial role are in a position of authority for purposes of this Policy (e.g., teaching assistants, residential assistants, student managers, orientation leaders).

Sexual Exploitation: Taking non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for one's own advantage or benefit, or for the benefit or advantage of anyone other than the one being exploited.

Examples of sexual exploitation may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Invasion of sexual privacy;
2. Prostituting another individual;
3. Non-consensual photos, video, or audio of sexual activity;
4. Non-consensual distribution of photo, video, or audio of sexual activity, even if the sexual activity or capturing of the activity was consensual;
5. Intentional observation of nonconsenting individuals who are partially undressed, naked, or engaged in sexual acts;
6. Knowingly transmitting an STD or HIV to another individual through sexual activity;
7. Intentionally and inappropriately exposing one's breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals in non-consensual circumstances; and/or Sexually-based bullying.

Sexual Harassment (Student on Student): Unwelcome verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct based on sex (including gender stereotypes), determined by a Reasonable Person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to participate in or to benefit from an institutional education program or activity.

Sexual Harassment (Other Than Student on Student): Unwelcome verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, based on sex (including gender stereotypes), that may be any of the following:

1. Implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of employment or status in a course, program, or activity;
2. A basis for employment or educational decisions; or
3. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to interfere with one's work or educational performance creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or learning environment, or interfering with or limiting one's ability to participate in or to benefit from an institutional program or activity.

The USG also prohibits unwelcome conduct determined by a Reasonable Person to be so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to a USG education program or activity in violation of Title IX.

Sexual Misconduct: Includes, but is not limited to, such unwanted behavior as dating violence, domestic violence, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual penetration, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment and stalking.

Stalking: Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.

For the purposes of this definition:

1. Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with person's property.
2. Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

REPORTS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Initial Evaluation of Sexual Misconduct Reports

Upon notice of the alleged Sexual Misconduct the institution's Title IX Coordinator ("Coordinator") will assess whether a formal investigation, informal resolution, or dismissal would be appropriate. In making this determination, the Coordinator will assess whether the allegation(s), if true, would rise to the level of prohibited conduct, whether a Formal Complaint must be filed, whether an investigation is appropriate in light of the circumstances, whether the parties prefer an informal resolution, and whether any safety concerns exist for the campus community. The need to issue a broader warning to the community in compliance with the Clery Act shall be assessed in compliance with federal law.

Confidentiality

Where a Complainant requests that their identity be withheld or the allegation(s) not be investigated, the Coordinator should consider whether or not such request(s) can be honored in a manner consistent with the institution's obligations to promote a safe and non-discriminatory environment. The institution should inform the Complainant that the institution cannot guarantee confidentiality. Honoring a Complainant's request for confidentiality shall not prevent the institution from reporting information or statistical data as required by law, including the Clery Act.

Retaliation

Anyone who has made a report or complaint, provided information, assisted, participated, or refused to participate in any manner in the Sexual Misconduct process, shall not be subjected to retaliation. Anyone who believes that they have been subjected to retaliation should immediately contact the Coordinator or their designee. Any person found to have engaged in retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action.

False Complaints/Statements

Individuals are prohibited from knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information to a system or institution official. Any person found to have knowingly submitted false complaints, accusations, or statements, including during a hearing, shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action (up to and including suspension or expulsion) under the appropriate institutional process.

Amnesty

Students should be encouraged to come forward and to report Sexual Misconduct notwithstanding their choice to consume alcohol or to use drugs. Information reported by a student during the Sexual Misconduct process concerning the consumption of drugs or alcohol will not be used against the particular student in a disciplinary proceeding or voluntarily reported to law enforcement; however, students may be provided with resources on drug and alcohol counseling and/or education, as appropriate. Nevertheless, these students may be required to meet with staff members regarding the incident and may be required to participate in appropriate educational program(s). The required participation in an educational program under this amnesty procedure will not be considered a sanction. Nothing in this amnesty provision shall prevent an institution staff member who

is otherwise obligated by law (the Clery Act) to report information or statistical data as required.

Jurisdiction

Each institution shall take necessary and appropriate action to promote the safety and well-being of its community. Accordingly, Sexual Misconduct should be addressed when such acts occur on institution property, at institution-sponsored or affiliated events, or otherwise violates the institution's student conduct policies, regardless as to where such conduct occurs.

Access to Advisors

1. **For Formal Title IX Complaints:** Both the Complainant and the Respondent, as parties to the matter, shall have the opportunity to use an advisor (who may or may not be an attorney) of the party's choosing. The advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the Sexual Misconduct process, including providing questions, suggestions and guidance to the party, but may not actively participate in the process except to conduct cross-examination at the hearing as outlined in the Resolution/Hearing section below. If a party chooses not to use an advisor during the investigation, the institution will provide an advisor for the purpose of conducting cross-examination on behalf of the relevant party. All communication during the Sexual Misconduct process will be between the institution and the party and not the advisor. The institution will copy the party's advisor prior to the finalization of the investigation report when the institution provides the parties the right to inspect and review directly related information gathered during the investigation. With the party's permission, the advisor may be copied on all communications.
2. **For Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct Complaints:** Both the Complainant and the Respondent, as parties to the matter, shall have the opportunity to use an advisor (who may or may not be an attorney) of the party's choosing at the party's own expense. The advisor may accompany the party to all meetings and may provide advice and counsel to their respective party throughout the Sexual Misconduct process but may not actively participate in the process. All communication during the Sexual Misconduct process will be between the institution and the party and not the advisor. With the party's permission, the advisor may be copied on all communications.

Interim Measures

Interim measures may be implemented at any point after the institution becomes aware of an allegation of Sexual Misconduct and should be designed to protect any student or other individual in the USG community. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the recipient's educational environment, or deter Sexual Misconduct and retaliation. Interim measures must be implemented consistent with the provisions in applicable Board and institutional policies and procedures.

An interim suspension should only occur where necessary to promote safety and should be limited to those situations where the Respondent poses a serious and immediate danger or threat to persons or property. In making such an assessment, the institution should consider the existence of a significant risk to the health or safety of the Complainant or the campus community; the nature, duration, and severity of the risk; the probability of potential injury; and whether less restrictive means can be used to significantly mitigate the risk.

Before an interim suspension is issued, the institution must make reasonable efforts to

give the Respondent the opportunity to be heard on whether the Respondent's presence on campus poses a danger. If an interim suspension is issued, the terms of the interim suspension take effect immediately. The Respondent shall receive notice of the interim suspension and the opportunity to respond to the interim suspension.

Within three business days of receiving a challenge the institution will determine whether the interim suspension should continue.

PROCESS FOR INVESTIGATING AND RESOLVING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT REPORTS

Investigation

Throughout any investigation and resolution proceeding, a party shall receive written notice of the alleged Sexual Misconduct, shall be provided an opportunity to respond, and shall be allowed the right to remain silent or otherwise not participate in or during the investigation and resolution process without an adverse inference resulting. If a party chooses to remain silent or otherwise not participate in the investigation or resolution process, the investigation and resolution process may still proceed, and policy violations may result.

Until a final determination of responsibility, the Respondent is presumed to have not violated the Sexual Misconduct Policy. Prior to the finalization of the investigation report, timely and equal access to information directly related to the allegations that has been gathered during the investigation and may be used at the hearing will be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a party's advisor (where applicable).

Formal judicial rules of evidence do not apply to the investigation process, additionally the standard of review throughout the Sexual Misconduct process is a preponderance of the evidence.

1. The parties shall be provided with written notice of the: report/allegations with sufficient details, pending investigation, possible charges, possible sanctions, available support services and interim measures, and other rights under applicable institutional policies. For the purposes of this provision sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting Sexual Misconduct, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. This information will be supplemented as necessary with relevant evidence collected during the investigation. The notice should also include the identity of any investigator(s) involved. Notice should be provided via institution email to the party's institution email.
2. Upon receipt of the written notice, the parties shall have at least three business days to respond in writing. In that response, the Respondent shall have the right to admit or deny the allegations, and to set forth a defense with facts, witnesses, and supporting materials. A Complainant shall have the right to respond to and supplement the notice. Throughout the Sexual Misconduct process, the Complainant and the Respondent shall have the right to present witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.
3. If the Respondent admits responsibility, the process may proceed to the sanctioning phase or may be informally resolved, if appropriate.
4. An investigator shall conduct a thorough investigation and should retain written notes and/or obtain written or recorded statements from each interview. The investigator shall also keep a record of any party's proffered witnesses not interviewed, along with a brief, written explanation of why the witnesses were not interviewed.
5. An investigator shall not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other

recognized professional made in connection with the party's treatment unless the party has provided voluntary written consent. This also applies to information protected by recognized legal privilege.

6. The initial investigation report shall be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a party's advisor (if applicable). This report should fairly summarize the relevant evidence gathered during the investigation and clearly indicate any resulting charges or alternatively, a determination of no charges. For purposes of this Policy, a charge is not a finding of responsibility.
7. The Complainant and the Respondent shall have at least 10 calendar days to review and respond in writing to the initial investigation report and directly related information gathered during the investigation. The investigator will review the Complainant's and the Respondent's written responses, if any, to determine whether further investigation or changes to the investigation report are necessary.
8. The final investigation report should be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent, and a party's advisor, if applicable, at least 10 calendar days prior to the Hearing. The final investigation report should also be provided to all Hearing Panel members for consideration during the adjudication process.

Resolution/Hearing

The Respondent and the Complainant, as parties to the matter, may have the option of selecting informal resolution as a possible resolution in certain cases where the parties agree, and it is deemed appropriate by the institution. Where a matter is not resolved through informal resolution a hearing shall be set. All Sexual Misconduct cases shall be heard by a panel of faculty and/or staff. All institutional participants in the Sexual Misconduct resolution process shall receive appropriate annual training as directed by the System Director or Coordinator and required by the Clery Act and Title IX.

In no case shall a hearing to resolve a Sexual Misconduct allegation take place before the investigation report has been finalized. The investigator may testify as a witness regarding the investigation and findings but shall otherwise have no part in the hearing process and shall not attempt to otherwise influence the proceedings outside of providing testimony during the hearing. All directly related evidence shall be available at the hearing for the parties and their advisors to reference during the hearing.

Relevant facts or evidence that were not known or knowable to the parties prior to the issuance of the final investigative report shall be admissible during the hearing. The institution will determine how the facts or evidence will be introduced. The admissibility of any facts or evidence known or knowable by the parties prior to the issuance of the final investigative report, and which were not submitted during the investigation, shall be determined by the institution in compliance with the obligation to provide both parties an equal opportunity to present and respond to witnesses and other evidence. Notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing as well as the selected hearing panel members shall be provided to the Complainant and the Respondent at least 10 calendar days prior to the hearing. Notice shall be provided via institution email to the parties' institution email. Parties may attend the hearing with their advisor.

Hearings shall be conducted in-person or via video conferencing technology. Where the institution determines that a party or witness is unable to be present in person due to extenuating circumstances, the institution may establish special procedures to permit that individual to provide testimony from a separate location. In doing so, the institution must determine whether there is a valid basis for the individual's unavailability, require that the individual properly sequester in a manner that ensures testimony has not been tainted, and make a determination that such arrangement will not unfairly disadvantage any party. Should it be reasonably believed that the individual presented tainted testimony, the hear-

ing panel will disregard or discount the testimony. Parties may also request to provide testimony in a separate room from the opposing party, so long as no party is unfairly disadvantaged, and they have the opportunity to view the testimony remotely and submit follow-up questions.

At all times participants in the hearing process, including parties, a party's advisor, and institution officials, are expected to act in a manner that promotes dignity and decorum throughout the hearing. Participants are expected to be respectful to others and follow procedural formalities outlined by this Policy and the institution. The institution reserves the right to remove any participant from the hearing environment if the participant refuses to adhere to the institution's established rules of decorum.

Each institution shall maintain documentation of the investigation and resolution process, which may include written findings of fact, transcripts, audio recordings, and/or video recordings. Any documentation shall be maintained for seven years.

Additionally, the following standards will apply to Title IX and Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct hearings respectively:

A. Title IX Hearings

1. Where a party or a witness is unavailable, unable, or otherwise unwilling to participate in the hearing, including being subject to cross-examination, the hearing panel shall not rely on statements of that party or witness in reaching its determination regarding responsibility. The hearing panel shall not draw an adverse inference against the party or witness based solely on their absence from the hearing or refusal to subject to cross-examination.
2. The parties shall have the right to present witnesses and evidence at the hearing.
3. The parties shall have the right to confront any witness, including the other party, by having their advisor ask relevant questions directly to the witness. The Hearing Officer shall limit questions raised by the advisor when they are irrelevant to determining the veracity of the allegations against the Respondent(s). In any such event, the Hearing Officer shall err on the side of permitting all the raised questions and must document the reason for not permitting any particular questions to be raised.
4. Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior, shall be deemed irrelevant, unless such questions and evidence are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the alleged conduct or consent between the parties during the alleged incident.
5. The hearing panel shall not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional made in connection with the party's treatment unless the party has provided voluntary written consent. This also applies to information protected by recognized legal privilege.
6. Formal judicial rules of evidence do not apply to the resolution process and the standard of evidence shall be a preponderance of the evidence.
7. Following a hearing, the parties shall be simultaneously provided a written decision via institution email of the hearing outcome and any resulting sanctions or administrative actions. The decision must include the allegations, procedural steps taken through the investigation and resolution process, findings of facts supporting the determination(s), determination(s) regarding responsibility, and the evidence relied upon and rationale for any sanction or other administrative action. The institution shall also notify the parties of their right to appeal as outlined below.

B. Non-Title IX Sexual Misconduct Hearings

1. The parties shall have the right to present witnesses and evidence at the hearing. Witness testimony, if provided, shall pertain to knowledge and facts directly associated with the case being heard.
2. The parties shall have the right to confront any witnesses, including the other party, by submitting written questions to the Hearing Officer for consideration. Advisors may actively assist in drafting questions. The Hearing Officer shall ask the questions as written and will limit questions only if they are irrelevant to determining the veracity of the allegations against the Respondent(s). In any such event, the Hearing Officer shall err on the side of asking all submitted questions and must document the reason for not asking any particular questions.
3. Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior, shall be deemed irrelevant, unless such questions and evidence are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the alleged conduct or consent between the parties during the alleged incident.
4. The hearing panel shall not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional made in connection with the party's treatment unless the party has provided voluntary written consent. This also applies to information protected by recognized legal privilege.
5. Formal judicial rules of evidence do not apply to the resolution process and the standard of evidence shall be a preponderance of the evidence.
6. Following a hearing, the parties shall be simultaneously provided a written decision via institution email of the hearing outcome and any resulting sanctions or administrative actions. The decision must include the allegations, procedural steps taken through the investigation and resolution process, findings of facts supporting the determination(s), determination(s) regarding responsibility, and the evidence relied upon and rationale for any sanction or other administrative action. The institution shall also notify the parties of their right to appeal, as outlined below.

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS

In determining the severity of sanctions or corrective actions the following should be considered: the frequency, severity, and/or nature of the offense; history of past conduct; an offender's willingness to accept responsibility; previous institutional response to similar conduct; strength of the evidence; and the wellbeing of the university community. The institution will determine sanctions and issue notice of the same, as outlined above.

The broad range of sanctions includes: expulsion; suspension for an identified time frame or until satisfaction of certain conditions or both; temporary or permanent separation of the parties (e.g., change in classes, reassignment of residence, no contact orders, limiting geography of where parties can go on campus) with additional sanctions for violating no-contact orders; required participation in sensitivity training/awareness education programs; required participation in alcohol and other drug awareness and abuse prevention programs; counseling or mentoring; volunteering/community service; loss of institutional privileges; delays in obtaining administrative services and benefits from the institution (e.g., holding transcripts, delaying registration, graduation, diplomas); additional academic requirements relating to scholarly work or research; financial restitution; or any other discretionary sanctions directly related to the violation or conduct.

For suspension and expulsion, the institution must articulate, in its written decision, the substantial evidence relied upon in determining that suspension or expulsion were appropriate. For purposes of this Policy substantial evidence means evidence that a reasonable

person might accept to support the conclusion.

APPEALS

Appeals may be made in any cases where sanctions are issued, even when such sanctions are held “in abeyance,” such as probationary or expulsion. Where the sanction imposed includes a suspension or expulsion (even for one held in abeyance), the following appellate procedures must be provided.

The Respondent (and in cases involving sexual misconduct or other forms of discrimination and/or harassment, the Complainant) shall have the right to appeal the outcome on any of the following grounds: (1) to consider new information, sufficient to alter the decision, or other relevant facts not brought out in the original hearing (or appeal), because such information was not known or knowable to the person appealing during the time of the hearing (or appeal); (2) to allege a procedural error within the hearing process that may have substantially impacted the fairness of the hearing (or appeal), including but not limited to whether any hearing questions were improperly excluded or whether the decision was tainted by a conflict of interest or bias by the Title IX Coordinator, Conduct Officer, investigator(s), decision maker(s); or (3) to allege that the finding was inconsistent with the weight of the information. The appeal must be made in writing, must set forth one or more of the bases outlined above, and must be submitted within five business days of the date of the final written decision. The appeal should be made to the institution’s President or their designee.

The appeal shall be a review of the record only, and no new meeting with the Respondent or any Complainant is required. The President or their designee may affirm the original finding and sanction, affirm the original finding but issue a new sanction of greater or lesser severity, remand the case back to any lower decision maker to correct a procedural or factual defect, or reverse or dismiss the case if there was a procedural or factual defect that cannot be remedied by remand. The President or their designee’s decision shall be simultaneously issued in writing to the parties within a reasonable time period. The President or their designee’s decision shall be the final decision of the institution.

Should the Respondent or Complainant (where applicable) wish to appeal the final institutional decision, they may request review by the Board of Regents in accordance with the Board of Regents’ Policy on Discretionary Review.

Appeals received after the designated deadlines above will not be considered unless the institution or Board of Regents has granted an extension prior to the deadline. If an appeal is not received by the deadline the last decision on the matter will become final.

RECUSAL/CHALLENGE FOR BIAS

Any party may challenge the participation of any institution official, employee or student panel member in the process on the grounds of personal bias by submitting a written statement to the institution’s designee setting forth the basis for the challenge. The designee shall not be the same individual responsible for investigating or adjudicating the conduct allegation. The written challenge should be submitted within a reasonable time after the individual knows or reasonably should have known of the existence of the bias. The institution’s designee will determine whether to sustain or deny the challenge and, if sustained, the replacement to be appointed.

COVID-19 FALL 2020 RETURN TO CAMPUS INFORMATION & PROTOCOLS

The State of Georgia is no longer under a shelter-in-place order to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and businesses, educational institutions and state agencies are reopening their facilities and campuses. Savannah State University plans to bring students back to campus for fall 2020. Decisions regarding the return to campus will be guided by the University System of Georgia (USG) the Office of the Governor of the State of Georgia, the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Prior to spring semester 2020, Savannah State University offered only limited courses in an online format. Since March 2020, SSU has engaged in a substantial effort to improve the availability and delivery of its courses online. During summer 2020, SSU expects to certify 50 percent of its instruction corps for online education. Given the uncertainty of COVID-19 and its effect on the community, SSU must remain flexible to deliver education to students in various formats.

SSU will continue working with subcommittees to continuously update and react to new information learned about the virus. In accordance with the most recent information from the CDC, the following actions will be implemented in the fall.

Use of Face Coverings

Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia (USG) institutions will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing.

Face coverings are not required in one's own dorm room or suite, when alone in an enclosed office or study room, or in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met.

Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Repeated refusal to comply with the requirement may result in discipline through the applicable conduct code for faculty, staff or students.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY HOUSING CONTRACT ADDENDUM

INSTRUCTIONS: By executing this Contract Addendum and the associated Contract online (or signing and returning), you agree to and accept all terms and conditions included within the SSU Campus Reentry Plan-Fall 2020.

Contract and Contract Addendum, which includes information about the meningococcal vaccination and COVID-19 acknowledgement of risk. Executing the contract electronically (entering your SSU ID number and clicking the button below) is equivalent to signing a paper contract as it signifies your agreement with the contract.

You may either execute the Contract and Contract Addendum online through the Housing portal or sign and return the Contract and Addendum to the University Housing Assignments Office. In this Contract, "execute"/"executed"/"execution" is defined as the student (and parent/guardian/guarantor if the student is under the age of 18) indicating their assent to terms of the Contract. If University Housing & Residence Life does not receive the executed Contract and Addendum by the deadline listed on the Addendum, your assignment and registration for housing may be canceled. This Contract is being offered to you on the basis of your completed hereby acknowledge I understand that the Contract and Addendum form the totality of my housing contract. [add registration for a housing space in a University Housing facility. When this Contract is executed, it becomes a binding agreement - a contract between you (and your parent/guardian/guarantor if you are under the age of 18) and Savannah State University.

I understand by entering in my SSU student ID number (915#) at the bottom of this page and clicking "Execute the Contract," I will checkbox here]

Meningococcal Disease Vaccination Statement

In accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, newly admitted students who are 18 years of age or older residing in campus housing as defined by the post-secondary educational institution shall be required to sign a document provided by the postsecondary educational institution stating that he or she has received a vaccination against meningococcal disease not more than five years prior to such admittance or reviewed the information provided as required. If a student is a minor, only a parent or guardian may sign such document.

Information about meningococcal disease and the vaccine are included as part of the SSU Housing contract for SSU on-campus housing and require signature of the student or parent (if student is under the age of 18).

- Meningitis is an infection of the fluid of a person's spinal cord and brain. The two major types are viral and bacterial.
- Meningococcal disease is a contagious, but largely preventable infection of the spinal cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain.
- Meningococcal disease is spread by close contact of respiratory secretions, such as drinking directly after someone, kissing, and sharing utensils, or by being coughed or sneezed upon. It is not spread by being in the same classroom or by passing someone on the street.
- Meningococcal disease is a serious disease that can lead to death within only a few hours of onset; one in ten cases is fatal; and one in seven survivors of the disease is left with a severe disability, such as the loss of a limb, developmental disability, paralysis, deafness or seizures.
- Scientific evidence suggests that college students living in dormitory facilities are at a moderately increased risk of contracting meningococcal disease.
- Immunization against meningococcal disease will decrease the risk of the disease.

ACIP recommendations for college students living in residence halls:

- First-year college students living in residence halls should receive at least one (1) dose of MenACWY (Menactra or Menveo) before college entry. The preferred timing of the most recent dose is on or after their 16th birthday.
- If only one (1) dose of vaccine was administered before the 16th birthday, a booster dose should be administered before enrollment.
- Some schools, colleges and universities have policies requiring vaccination against meningococcal disease as a condition of enrollment for either incoming first-year students living in residence halls or all incoming first-year students. For ease of program implementation, persons aged ≤ 21 years should have documentation of receipt of meningococcal conjugate vaccine not more than five (5) years before enrollment.
- A second vaccine series for Meningitis B may be administered to adolescents and young adults aged 16–23 years to provide short-term protection against most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease. The preferred age for MenB vaccination is 16–18 years. MenB vaccine should either be administered as a three-dose series (Trumenba) or a two-dose series (Bexsero).

Additional information about Meningococcal disease and vaccines can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/>.

I indicate I have received a vaccination against meningococcal disease not more than five years before admittance or have reviewed the information provided above regarding Georgia State Law regarding meningococcal vaccinations.

COVID-19 Acknowledgement of Risk

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to be spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state and local health agencies and governments have recommended a number of preventative measures.

Students who live on campus are encouraged to:

- Practice good hand hygiene by either washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or by using alcohol-based hand sanitizer which contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home if you're feeling sick and contact the University Health Center regarding your symptoms
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- And practice social distancing strategies, where applicable.

Although there are a lot of unknowns at this point, University Housing & Residence Life is strategizing cleaning, programming and distancing initiatives to prevent the spread of disease, while still providing the community and support you expect from us.

As of right now, our plans include:

- Increasing touchpoint cleaning in common area spaces
- Providing resources for students to self-clean or wipe down bathrooms and common areas, if desired
- Possibly limiting the current cleaning schedule of private/shared bathrooms, so our housing staff will not need to enter student rooms on a weekly basis for those configurations
- Considering an adjustment in our guest policy that may temporarily alter the number of guests allowed in student's rooms
- Encouraging resident social distancing and other personal hygiene practices
- Implementing a modified residential programming model

And possibly relocating any affected students to another room, hall or other location in the event of a required self-quarantine or isolation as determined by the University Health Center.

Because of the fluid nature of the pandemic, we are continuing to engage in conversations with our campus partners and reviewing best practices and guidelines from the University System of Georgia and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) about how to continue to maintain a healthy on-campus environment in preparation for your arrival in fall.

Although Savannah State University has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the University cannot guarantee that you will not become exposed to or infected with COVID-19 while living in on-campus facilities. Further, living on campus could elevate the risk of contracting any contagious illness simply due to the dense populations in the residence halls.

I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and the risk of possible exposure by living on campus. I further acknowledge that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected

by COVID-19 in the residence halls may result from the actions, omissions or negligence of myself and others. [add checkbox here]

I have read and agree to each and every provision of this Addendum and the associated Contract Addendum and understand I am entering into a legally binding agreement with the University. [add checkbox here]

Execute the contract by entering your SSU ID (915#)

Contract execution date by student: XX/XX/XXXX

By: **BOARD of REGENTS of the UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA by and on behalf of the SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY**

COVID-19 STUDENT EDUCATIONAL AND RESPONSE TEAM (CO-SERT)

Overview

Questions and concerns from faculty, staff, and community members related to students and COVID-19 health and safety guidelines may be submitted to:

theofficeofstudentaffairs@savannahstate.edu.

Savannah State University's (SSU) top priority in reopening our campuses (Main and Coastal Georgia Center) is the safety of our faculty, staff, and students. As SSU has affirmed, each member of our community must take responsibility for their actions and adhere to the guidelines of the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as guidelines issued by the University System of Georgia (USG) and SSU to protect themselves and others while helping to contain the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Voluntary compliance is critical.

The COVID-19 Student Educational and Response Team (CO-SERT) is a temporary collaborative team at SSU, charged and led by Student Affairs, to provide a central point of contact, review, and response or referral on identified questions and concerns involving students and COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Specifically, the CO-SERT team:

1. Disseminates pertinent information, provides education and facilitates COVID-19 training for students and student groups;
2. Reviews reported concerns and questions related to students or student groups and COVID-19 health and safety guidelines;
3. As necessary, communicates with involved community members, students, or student groups to gain additional or clarify information; and
4. Determines whether further response or referral is indicated by the review. If indicated, responses or referrals may include:
 - Follow-up with campus community members,
 - Providing current guidelines or clarification to students or student groups,
 - Providing additional campus resources or information to students or student groups,
 - Referring the concerns(s) or question(s) to an appropriate campus resource or office to assist in informational or educational efforts,
 - Referring the concerns(s) or question(s) to an appropriate campus resource or office to consider available enforcement processes under their purview, and
 - Utilizing a temporary hold to support an educational response or referral.

CO-SERT Team Members:

- Bonita Bradley, Dean of Students (Chair)
- Jacqueline Awe, Director of Student Development
- Shawntell Phoenix-Martin, Director of Counseling Services
- Shed Dawson, Jr., Coordinator of Greek Life
- Marius Davis, Professional Advisor
- Tadisha Sams-Young, Resident Educator
- Frederick Denson, Interim Chief of Police
- Cordera ‘Cord’ Jennings, Coordinator of Student Conduct

As circumstances related to COVID-19 indicate, the CO-SERT team will be disbanded. At no point is the CO-SERT intended to alter, supersede, or obviate any existing campus enforcement processes nor jurisdiction of the university’s COVID-19 Task Force.

The Vice President of Student Affairs charges and retains ultimate authority over all actions of the CO-SERT team.

COVID-19 STUDENT EXPOSURE PROTOCOLS

Isolation/Quarantine Student Agreement

Dear _____: (SN: _____)

We have been informed that you either have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, or you have received positive COVID-19 test results indicating that you have the virus for COVID-19. Under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) and Savannah State University guidelines, if you have been exposed to the virus, you must self-quarantine. If you have the virus (tested positive), you must isolate.

Self-Quarantine

If you have been exposed to the virus, you will self-quarantine for 14 calendar days on campus, or you must go home. During self-quarantine on campus, food and other necessities will be made available to you. You may not interact with anyone, in-person, or resume normal activities for the entire 14-day period.

Isolation

If you tested positive for the virus, you must isolate on campus, or you must go home. If you isolate on campus, food and necessities will be provided. You will not interact with anyone, in-person, until you have a negative test result. If you do not want to isolate on campus, you can go home. Please contact the Dean of Students to let her know whether you are going home, or whether you wish to isolate on campus.

What happens if I do not self-quarantine or isolate?

Failure to adhere to self-quarantine, isolation or other measures to assure the health of yourself and others on campus will be grounds for disciplinary action for disruption, failure to comply, or other charges under the SSU Student Code of Conduct, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the University.

Return to campus

Once you have recovered from COVID-19 or have been cleared as not having the virus, you will be allowed to return to normal activities and campus housing. In order to return to campus, you must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result to the Dean of Students.

Upon your return to your campus residence, please stay safe while interacting with others by practicing social distancing, wearing an appropriate face covering, covering coughs and sneezes, washing your hands often, and cleaning and disinfecting spaces that you use.

Should you have any questions about the contents of this letter or self-quarantine, please contact Student Health Services at 912-358-4113.

Bonita Bradley, Dean of Students
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs



STUDENTS
COVID-19 Exposure Protocols (8.27.20)

I. Students (Live on Campus)

a. Test Positive

1. Email Housing (housing@savannahstate.edu) and COVID-19 Triage Committee (ssucovid-19@savannahstate.edu).
2. Self-isolate for 14 days from the first day of symptoms or the date of the confirmed test whichever is first. Due to limited space for students to isolate and quarantine, the University strongly encourages students to go home when they have tested positive for COVID-19. For those students that go in to isolation on campus, Housing will inform the student of the isolation location and related protocols.
3. Contact Ms. Jacqueline Awe, Director of Student Development, awej@savannahstate.edu to submit documentation of positive test and to discuss appropriate arrangements for classes.
4. Student Affairs and Auxiliary Services will coordinate to ensure that the student gets his/her meals.
5. Housing will contact Facilities for the appropriate disinfecting and cleaning protocols.
6. Students are required to submit a confirmed negative test result before resuming normal campus activities. Students should submit documentation of negative test results to Ms. Jacqueline Awe, Director of Student Development, who will notify faculty accordingly.

b. Close Contact

1. Email Housing (housing@savannahstate.edu) and COVID-19 Triage Committee (ssucovid-19@savannahstate.edu).
2. Secure a COVID-19 test to confirm whether or not you have the virus.
4. Self-isolate for 14 days from the first day of symptoms or the date of the confirmed test whichever is first. Due to limited space for students to isolate and quarantine, the University strongly encourages students to go home when they have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. For those students that quarantine on campus, Housing will inform the student of the quarantine location and related protocols.
5. Contact Ms. Jacqueline Awe, awej@savannahstate.edu, Director of Student Development, to submit documentation of positive test and to discuss appropriate arrangements for classes.
6. Student Affairs and Auxiliary Services will coordinate to ensure that the student gets his/her meals.
7. Housing will contact Facilities for the appropriate disinfecting and cleaning protocols.
8. Get tested if you begin to have symptoms.
9. Get tested after 10 days if you do not show any symptoms.
10. Students are required to submit a confirmed negative test result before resuming normal campus activities. Students should submit documentation of negative test results to Ms. Jacqueline Awe, Director of Student Development, who will notify faculty accordingly.