Anti-Hazing Agreement

Regis College supports all Massachusetts laws prohibiting the “hazing” of any student. The College supports the right of all student organizations to recruit new members, but in no way condones any act of hazing. The specifics of the “anti-hazing” statute are in Sections 17, 18 and 19 of Chapter 269 of the Massachusetts General Laws, Crimes against Public Peace. According to statute:

1. “Hazing” means any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person.

2. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, or drug, or any other forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any student or person, or which subjects students to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest, or extended isolation.

3. A principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing faces: (a) fine of up to $3,000 or (b) imprisonment for not more than 1 year or (c) both imprisonment and a fine.

4. Witnesses of such crimes are required to report such crimes to appropriate law enforcement officers (Campus Police and the Office of Student Affairs) as soon as possible or face a fine of up to $1,000.

The College will take judicial action against any individual(s) or organization(s) where evidence is found of hazing. Sanctions may include expulsion, suspension of the organization, fines, or probation.

Chapter 536
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Year 1985
An Act Prohibiting the Practice of Hazing

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 269 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following three sections:

Section 17. Definition; Penalty: Whoever is a principle organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment. The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or emotional health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme emotional stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.
Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

Section 18. Reporting Hazing Offenses; Penalty for Failure to Report Violation: Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

Section 19. Notice to Schools and Colleges; Annual Reports; Adoption of Disciplinary Policy: Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post-secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution’s compliance with this section’s requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution’s recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team, or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership.

It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgment stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full-time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibilities to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution’s policies to its students. The board of regents and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution that fails to make such report.

I have read, understand and agree to fully comply with Commonwealth of Massachusetts Laws regarding hazing.

______________________________
Student Name (Printed)

______________________________  _________________
Student Signature                     Date