

2015-2016 Social Club Handbook

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SOCIAL CLUBS

General Information

As recognized student organizations of ACU, social clubs join service groups, academic groups and special interest groups in representing ACU's mission in a variety of unique ways. Leaders and members of social clubs should communicate ACU's mission as well as their own club mission in all of their activities. This section of the Student Organization Handbook serves as an orientation guide for new members and a leadership guide for officers, advisors and active members of social clubs.

The guidelines in this section are intended to state the purpose, philosophy, rules and regulations regarding social clubs to (1) help prospective pledges understand social clubs and their function and (2) clarify and communicate consistent information to all club members and advisors.

Purpose of Social Clubs

Since 1919, social clubs have been a part of the ACU experience. Through social clubs, many students fulfill the need for close, personal contact and for social interaction. Clubs exist because founding members petitioned the University and received approval for their proposed charter. Therefore, social clubs exist as entities granted by the University and must maintain the standards of the University.

Clubs participate in a variety of activities: intramural sports, Sing Song, Homecoming activities, socials and service projects. The University supports the social clubs in their efforts to stimulate a closer bond of friendship among students and enhance each student's loyalty to ACU.

Coordination of Social Clubs

ACU social clubs are under the coordination of the Student Life Office. The Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs is the primary coordinator and serves as the facilitator for social clubs on campus.

The responsibilities of the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs include:

- Establishing and coordinating regular meetings with club officers and sponsors.
- Coordinating communication to students, sponsors and ACU faculty/staff regarding social clubs.
- Educating the campus community, especially prospective pledges, about the pledging process.
- Educating the campus community, especially Social Club Officers and sponsors, about the annual social club calendar and process.
- Supervising and upholding ACU policy and procedures in all club activities.
- Monitoring and evaluating all aspects of the social club process with annual assessment.

Social Clubs as Recognized Student Organizations

In order for a social club to be active on campus, they must be recognized as an official ACU student organization. Social clubs must comply with the policies outlined in the Student Organization Handbook for university recognition. This includes submitting annual updates prior

to the end of each academic year and attending any mandatory training that is required by the Office of Student Organizations and Programs.

In addition to the requirements listed in the Student Organization Handbook, social clubs must maintain a minimum membership of 10 members. If the membership falls below 10, the social club will be required to meet with the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs and may be placed on one year of probation to acquire the necessary membership minimum. If at the end of that year the club still falls short of the minimum membership requirement, their status as a recognized organization may be removed. The organization may go through a re-chartering process once it meets the necessary membership requirement.

Responsibilities of Social Clubs

It is extremely important that all actions of social clubs during the school year, especially induction procedures, reflect a positive impact on the individual participants, other students and/or faculty, citizens of Abilene, Taylor County and surrounding areas. Club officers and their sponsors must be acutely aware of the community's response to their actions. One or two unseemly incidents can negate a world of good that is performed by most clubs throughout the year.

- The freedom of choice given to individual clubs is possible only when individual clubs take full responsibility for following approved plans and University guidelines for pledging activities.
- Each club, as a whole, is responsible for the actions of its club members, current students and alumni toward potential new club members. The club's responsibility exists without regard to whether its members are acting alone or as a group, and without regard to whether its members are acting with or without the knowledge of the club's officers or advisors.
- The clubs agree to follow and enforce for their members the guidelines developed by the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs as well as the University.

Eligibility Requirements for Membership in a Social Club

As with any other co-curricular activity at ACU, there are eligibility requirements for pledging and remaining active in a social club. Any recent conduct probation may impact your ability to participate in club activities as a pledge or a member.

The following list includes the guidelines for eligibility to pledge. Students must:

- 1) Have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5. Students may not have below a 2.0 GPA in the semester before they pledge. For transfer students, the GPA of prior institutions will be used to determine eligibility. Once a student establishes a GPA at ACU, transfer GPA's will not be considered.
- 2) Have completed two long semesters of college (completed at least 24 semester hours); there are possible special circumstances that could allow a student to be exempt from this requirement with approval from the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs.
- 3) Be currently enrolled as a full-time ACU student (12 or more hours for undergraduate students and 9 or more hours for graduate students).

- 4) Be in good academic standing with the University.
- 5) Have graduated from high school in 2014 or earlier.

Any student found to be ineligible after registering to pledge will receive an ineligibility notice from the Office of Student Organizations and Programs explaining the reasons for the ineligibility. Social clubs will receive a list of eligible students who registered to pledge from the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs after registration has concluded.

Member eligibility is verified at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. Existing member requirements include the following:

- 1) Have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 (University policy for academic good standing). Transfer GPA's will not be considered once an ACU GPA is established. Any recent conduct or academic probation may also impact a student's ability to participate in a social club.
- 2) Be currently enrolled as a full-time ACU student (12 or more hours for undergraduate students and 9 or more hours for graduate students).
- 3) Be in good standing with the University.

Any student found ineligible will receive an email giving information and details about the ineligibility. Ineligible students are prohibited from participating in Intramurals, Sing Song, club meetings, running for office, voting, socials and formals, and any other club sponsored events. Social Clubs will be notified of any member that does not meet eligibility requirements. Club officers and advisors are responsible for ensuring that ineligible members do not participate in club activities. Organizations admitting new members or allowing current members to participate who do not meet the above requirements may face disciplinary actions, including, but not limited to, loss of its student organization's status.

Cost of Social Clubs

Each social club charges dues to its members. The additional costs of T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and other items, as well as the costs of socials, Sing Song, etc., must also be considered.

All things considered, clubs at ACU cost approximately \$300-\$500 per year, depending on the club. Expenses during the pledging period may be greater than for a typical semester. Most clubs' dues are \$100-\$200. Clubs may allow students to make several payments during the semester to ease the financial stress, but this is at the discretion of each club.

When a pledge pays dues, it is done with the understanding that if that pledge chooses to walk away from the pledging process, no money will be refunded.

POLICIES

Officer Expectations

Officers, as well as all ACU students, are expected to uphold the principles of Abilene Christian University as stated in the ACU Student Handbook. These principles include integrity, service, stewardship, involvement and excellence. Officers are at all times expected to represent their clubs and ACU well and should take this responsibility seriously. Students in leadership positions are held to a higher standard. With this in mind, a student's disciplinary file will be considered prior to any club elections. Students who find themselves with a recent conduct

probation may not be eligible for leadership positions. Students who have been elected to leadership positions and then find themselves facing a conduct probation may be required to resign their office immediately after all appeals have been exhausted. Academic/chapel integrity violations may also impact a student's eligibility to run for office. However, the University reserves the right to immediately remove the student leader from his/her position, if the Dean of Student Life determines that serious misconduct has occurred or that the student's continued leadership presents unreasonable risk of danger to himself or herself or the organization. If at any time a social club officer is known to have broken any portion of the Student Handbook, the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs or the sponsors of a social club can remove a member from office.

Any club member wishing to run for an office must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- 1) Must meet all eligibility requirements for membership in a social club.
- 2) Must be active during the semester that elections take place.

All social club officers sign a commitment with the Office of Student Organizations and Programs at the beginning of their term indicating their understanding of these principles. The commitment also states that if the principles are not followed, they will forfeit their position as an officer. A copy of the commitment follows.

Social Club Officer Commitment
Office of Student Organizations
Abilene Christian University

First Corinthians 4:2 says "those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." As an officer of your organization, it is important to realize that members of your club have entrusted you with your position. With that trust comes responsibility not only to them but also to God. As the Lord said to Ezekiel, "Woe to the shepherds who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?" (Ezek 34:2). As a leader, your own interests are second to those you serve. Jesus gave the ultimate example of this by humbling himself to the position of a servant and washing his disciples' feet. As a leader of your club, you should seek to follow Christ's example of serving those you lead.

I, _____, as the _____
Name Office
of _____ for the 2015-2016 academic year, understand that,
Club

as an officer of a social club, I make the commitment to abide by all the principles set forth in the ACU Student Handbook and the Student Organization Handbook as stated through the Student Life Office. These principles include, but are not limited to, integrity, service, stewardship, involvement and excellence. I understand that as an officer and leader on campus I have a greater responsibility and a higher standard because of my decision to serve as an officer. I also understand that I represent my club, the social club system as a whole, and ACU at all times. If I make the decision to disregard these principles, I agree to resign my office at a time determined by my advisors, the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs, the Dean of Student Life. If the office is resigned, a new election may be held to fill the vacancy.

Signature of Officer

Date

Inter-Social Club Council (ISCC)

The ISCC will be comprised of club representatives from each of the active social clubs on-campus. The council will meet regularly, spending time collectively addressing issues related to the social club process. This council will be advised by the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs.

New Officers

- 1) The election of new officers for the following school year must occur no later than 3 weeks prior to the end of the semester.
- 2) Social Clubs will be required to submit a list of members running for office at least 2 weeks prior to elections for the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs to check eligibility requirements of candidates.
- 3) Election results must be turned into the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs on or prior to the 3 weeks prior to dead day.
- 4) Newly elected officers will be expected and required to sign a commitment (on the previous page) with the University regarding their conduct. This commitment will hold officers accountable to ACU policies and procedures.
- 5) New officers are required to attend leadership training and orientation with the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs. Meetings will continue throughout the term of office.

Active Lists

Each club must turn in a list of current active members before the end of each semester (May 2016 and December 2015). The officer who is responsible for the list should make absolutely sure each individual on the list intends to be active and that everyone who wants to be active has made that decision known. Clubs are strongly encouraged to collect dues or agree to a payment plan BEFORE adding a member's name to the active list.

If payment is not made by the deadline set by the club, the treasurer must notify the Office of Student Organizations and Programs to remove the member's name from the active list.

Inactive Members

When a club member chooses to go inactive, that member forfeits the opportunity to participate in University-sponsored club competitions. These include intramurals, Sing Song, or any other University-sponsored club competition. Policies regarding closed club functions such as meetings, socials/formals, and special activities are a matter of individual club discretion and are to be set out in the constitution of each club; however, inactive members will not be allowed to

participate in any pledging activities. If a person in a club is deemed ineligible, this person cannot participate in **any club functions or events, including Sing Song, intramurals, club meetings, socials/formals, rush activities or pledging activities.**

Planning Socials

Sponsors should participate in the planning of socials for a club. At least one sponsor must be present at all socials, as this is a student organization special event; therefore, sponsors' input is crucial to planning. Sponsors must be asked about availability on chosen dates to assure that someone is available before any plans are made. When planning a social, it is suggested that a contract for services be used in arranging locations, photographers, T-shirt orders, etc., for the social. Most vendors will have a contract for events. (See student organization policy regarding contracts.) Sponsors must approve the social before it is submitted to the Office of Student Organizations and Programs for final approval. Club socials will be considered special events, and clubs will need to comply with the registration process by student organizations for special events (see Student Organization Handbook for more information).

Pursuant to the ACU Student Handbook, ACU student organizations cannot have alcohol or illegal drugs present at any student organization event or special event.

Sponsors

Social club sponsors are critical to the success of their organizations. Because of the nature of the activities in which social clubs engage, there are a few additional requirements. Candidates for advisor positions need to be at least five years out of school to be considered eligible to serve as an advisor. Each club must have (roughly) one sponsor for every 20 members.

The following are additional responsibilities that social clubs have toward sponsors:

1. The officers of the clubs, and ultimately the president, are responsible for scheduling and confirming that an appropriate number of sponsors will be at every activity, including club meetings. Sponsors should be made aware of activities ahead of time and then asked whether or not they will be able to be there. Failure to have a sponsor present will result in cancellation of the activity, meeting or event.
2. Though many sponsors may not have the time to attend intramural games, members should provide a schedule so that advisors could attend if desired.

Sponsors' Responsibilities to Social Clubs

1. Sponsors must be present at each meeting and club function (except officer meetings, intramural games, and Sing Song rehearsals).
2. A very important responsibility of sponsors is to closely monitor pledging activities. A sponsor is required read to sign every activity proposal before it is submitted to the Office of Student Organizations and Programs. Sponsors need to be familiar with what is permissible and what is not. It is necessary for them to know exactly what is being planned for the pledging period and to make sure it is consistent with University policy. Two sponsors must be present at each pledging activity, unless the activity is on campus in which case one sponsor will be permissible.

3. Please read the sponsor section for all student organizations for additional information that is applicable to social club advisors (Page 4).

RUSHING

Registering to Pledge a Social Club

At the beginning of the fall semester, the Office of Student Organizations and Programs will hold an information meeting for all prospective members. This meeting gives details of eligibility, the rushing process, the cost of pledging, and the pledging period.

Prospective members will be directed to the Social Club website where they can read this handbook. **Anyone interested in pledging MUST register to pledge.** To register, the prospective member must complete the online registration at www.acu.edu/socialclubs (click on "Register to Pledge"). Failure to register will result in the inability to pledge. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

For the fall 2015 pledging period, women must register on or before September 4, 2015 by 5pm and men must register to on or before September 18, 2015 by 5pm to be eligible to pledge.

The Realities of Pledging

Each club is limited in the number of pledges it can take. **For women's clubs, there is a pledge class cap is around 55.** Men's clubs set their own cap up to 52, but their pledge classes are generally smaller than the women's clubs. Because of these limitations, not every student who desires a bid for a specific club will receive a bid from that club. A good faith effort will be made to match every student with a social club.

The intention of rushing is to provide an opportunity for prospective members to spend time getting to know the different social clubs and their members. Each club has unique attributes and something to offer. It is during the rush period that prospective members are able to learn about those attributes and find the club that best suits their own personalities and preferences. It is important to keep an open mind during this process and actively engage in learning about all of the different clubs.

Rushes

The fall rush process lasts approximately two and a half weeks. Following are the types of rushes:

- Teas – for all women prospective members; on a Sunday afternoon at the beginning of pledging; refreshments and mingling; Sunday dress.
- Independent club rushes – a time for members and prospective members to meet and get to know each other. These may be on or off campus and may have a specific theme.
- Invitational Rushes- The women's clubs will start with open rushing, but as the rushing process continues, potential rushees must be invited back to attend a club's rush. Invitations will be delivered via email.

Check the website and online social club calendar to find the schedule of rushes and pledging information (<http://www.acu.edu/campusoffices/studentorgs/socialclubs/index.html>).

Ranking

During the rushing process, there will be one ranking day for men (Friday, September 18th) and three ranking days for women (Wednesday, September 9th and Wednesday, September 16th and Tuesday, September 22nd). Ranking will occur from 11pm until noon the next day. All of the ranking takes place by going to acu.edu/socialclubs. By having the prospective members rank all clubs, the Office of Student Organizations and Programs is able to attempt to give everyone who is still interested in the process a bid. The pledging contract and medical form must be turned in at this time as well.

Because men's and women's clubs have unique differences, the rushing process has been adjusted to accommodate the needs of each group.

Women

Women wishing to pledge a social club must attend each Tea held on Sunday, September 6, from 2-5:30pm. Each student will receive a Tea card that is to be signed at the end of each Tea. Failure to do so will get them removed from the pledging process.

Bid Distribution

In Fall 2015, bids will be distributed on the Thursday evening at a 5 pm gathering.

For male students living on-campus, bids will be delivered to residence hall rooms by Social Club Officers. When delivering bids, **club officers may not enter a resident's room.** For male students living off-campus, bids will be available for pick-up Campus Center at 5pm.

For female students, all bids will be distributed by the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs the Thursday before Bid Night. All women will gather at Hart Auditorium at 5:00 p.m. and then will be given a card with instructions to go to a location on campus to receive further information and instructions from the club that has offered them a bid.

PLEDGING

The mission of Abilene Christian University is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. Central to this mission is the desire to love and honor God by the way we call all members of the ACU community to love and honor others. The social club pledging period should honor God by honoring others - both current and prospective members - at all times.

The ACU mission challenges each member of the ACU community to treat others with the utmost respect and honor. Commitment to these principles has helped the members of the ACU community create a legacy of excellence of which we can all be proud. Since 1919 members of

social clubs have played an unmistakable role in this tradition of excellence at Abilene Christian University. Thus, we can be confident that increased efforts to make the pledging process at ACU even more positive will further enhance the contribution of social clubs to achieving the ACU mission.

ACU desires to incorporate new members into social clubs with a feeling of pride in the group and with a sense of belonging. This needs to be done in such a way as not to interfere with the student's academic and educational responsibilities.

The faculty, administration and Student Life staff hope to achieve a positive, memorable pledging experience for each student participating while upholding the scriptures of Romans 14:19, "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification," and Romans 15:1-2, "We who are strong ought to bear the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good to build him up."

Pledging Contract

A pledging contract must be signed by each club member and each prospective member to be filed in the Office of Student Organizations and Programs. The social club president will turn in member contracts at the designated time to the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs. Contracts will be turned in by the prospective members on the final ranking day. Failure to sign a contract makes both club members and prospective members ineligible to participate in the pledging process. This contract emphasizes the goals and objectives of pledging and must therefore be signed by each member of every club. A copy of the Pledging Contract follows.

2015-2016 Pledging Contract for Prospective and Current Club Members

I, the undersigned, understand that in order to participate in the pledging process, all prospective and current club members are required to sign this contract with ACU. By signing below, I am stating that I have read the following documents, understand what they require of me, and will fully comply with the responsibilities and requirements set out in them:

1. The Texas hazing law;

Specifically, I understand that hazing is illegal in Texas. (Under the Texas statute, hazing is defined as "any intentional knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are students at an educational institution.") I also understand that **anyone who witnesses or experiences hazing activities and does not report them and the individuals committing the activities is in violation of the statute;**

2. The ACU Student Organization Handbook; and

3. The ACU Student Handbook.

Specifically, I understand that all club activities, including pledging, will conform to the community standards of ACU as underscored by its mission statement and set forth in the current Student Organization Handbook and Student Handbook.

I realize that any violation of this contract may result in a disciplinary response and my removal from pledging activities.

In consideration of ACU's recognition of social clubs and for being permitted to participate in those clubs and in the pledging process, **I do hereby release, hold harmless and indemnify Abilene Christian University, its officers, trustees, agents, and employees from any and all claims, demand, suits, costs, and charges, in connection with or arising out of the pledging process or travel and transportation to and from pledging activities including, but not limited to, serious bodily injury to myself or others or property damage, except for loss, harm, or injury occasioned by gross negligence or intentional misconduct by Abilene Christian University, its officers, trustees, agents, or employees.** I further state that I have signed voluntarily under my own free will, and I am of legal age and legally competent to execute this agreement.

Your signature

Printed Name

Date

Pledging Proposals

Pledging proposals will be submitted by club officers to the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs by in September of 2015. Pledge proposals will include detailed accounts of each activity to occur pledging. These proposals must be signed by club officers and club sponsors. After review, the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs will return proposals with any necessary revisions. Club officers are responsible for ensuring that all club members and sponsors present at any given activity are aware of and have been educated as to what has been approved.

Student Life has adopted the following template that will be used as we consider pledging proposals:

- Did you start with your core value and intended purpose in developing an activity that demonstrates this value?
- The activity should be designed to help pledges grow into membership. Members themselves should be demonstrating core values through the activity.
- The activity should be consistent with discipleship to Jesus. There is no room for humiliation, disrespect, unkindness, or intimidation.
- It needs to be a joyful and meaningful experience for pledges and members.
- The activity proposal needs to be honest and transparent in all that is done.

Pledging Hours

Pledging a social club is a significant commitment. To honor the time and commitment made by each prospective member, limits have been set as to the number of hours spent on pledging during any given week.

For the first week of pledging (Sept. 28-October 2) 12 hours is the maximum number of hours to be spent on activities during pledging. For the second and third week of pledging Oct. 5-Oct. 9, 1, 3 hour Wednesday night activity is allowed. Activities that do not count towards hours include, club meetings, intramurals, Homecoming float preparation, Homecoming Breakfast preparation, or study hall hours. Once Homecoming is over, pledges become known as first-year members. First-year members are responsible for having one on one meetings with existing members, known as visits. Any student that does not complete their visits will not be eligible to participate in club activities for the following semester. First-year members are also responsible for putting on a dinner for existing members and advisers.

Clubs will dedicate one night per week towards intramural games. This process will be coordinated with the Director of Intramural Sports.

Residence Life

We desire that every prospective member have time to study, to sleep and to connect with friends on the hall. During pledging prospective members living on campus will have a **curfew**. Curfew is 12:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 1:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m., Friday and Saturday. This curfew will remain in place during the entirety of pledging, which includes Call Night. Clubs cannot have any activities during the hours of the curfew, regardless of whether a prospective member lives on or off campus. Students' that pledge **must** check in with a member of their dorm each night before curfew during the pledging process.

The consequences for being late for curfew by an individual prospective member during pledging are:

- 1) The first time a prospective member is late for curfew, he/she will receive a formal warning
- 2) The second time a prospective member is late for curfew, he/she will be required to meet with the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs and his or her club president.
- 3) If a prospective member misses curfew a third time, he/she will have an 11 pm curfew for one week (including weekends)
- 4) If a prospective member misses curfew a third time, he/she will be suspended from the pledging process and may go through the rushing process again the following year.

The consequences for a pledge class being late for curfew due to pledging activities are:

- 1) The first time a pledge class is late for curfew; the entire pledge class will have an 11:00 pm curfew for the remainder of pledging - including weekends. The club president, pledge mom or dad and an sponsor will be required to meet with the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs.
- 2) If a pledge class misses curfew a second time, pledging will cease for the entire club.

Other than bids being delivered to the residence halls by men's club members, at no time should any club member or officer be in the residence halls during pledging. The residence halls should be a "sanctuary" for all residents. Any club member wishing to visit a residence hall for a reason not pertaining to club business may do so only after they receive verbal or written consent from the residence director. The following are consequences if a member is in the residence halls:

- 1) The first time a club member transgresses the boundaries of a residence hall, that club member will be suspended from pledging activities.
- 2) On a second offense, the club member will become ineligible to participate in social clubs for the remainder of the semester and will become inactive.
- 3) On a third offense, pledging will cease for the entire club.

GUIDELINES FOR PLEDGING ACTIVITIES

ACU desires to incorporate new members into social clubs in ways that create a sense of community and belonging among all club members. Therefore, any action or communication by the club as a whole or by any individual member that humiliates, intimidates, embarrasses, degrades, threatens or abuses is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

BECAUSE THE CHARGE TO BUILD CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND PROTECT EACH OTHER FROM INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENT IS GREATER THAN THE CHARGE TO PROTECT A PERSON WHO IS MISTREATING OTHERS, ALL MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO REPORT SUSPECTED HAZING TO AN ADVISOR IMMEDIATELY. If disciplinary action taken against a club requires that pledging activities cease, all pledges will be inducted into the club as full members at that time. The offending person(s) would face disciplinary action.

Pledging

Pledging is conducted over a period of time that lasts 3 weeks; September 25-October 21. Pledges will at all times be treated with respect, both publicly and privately. During pledging, clubs should create experiences that focus on building unity in the pledge class, learning club history and traditions, overall club unity and community building and getting to know older members. Members should model club life and core values for pledges.

- i. Expectations/values for Pledging. Every activity must:
 1. Demonstrate Christian values and commitments.
 2. Create a sense of unity both within the pledge class and within the club as a whole.
 3. Provide a sense of the history, tradition and values of the club.
 4. Create a sense of the personal well-being of every member, including pledges. This includes activities that purposefully provide opportunities for spiritual growth including love of God and neighbors, emotional health, and personal integrity both of members and pledges.
 5. Honor the current Student Handbook and always have an sponsor present for meetings.

ii. Prohibited Behaviors for Pledging. The University will not tolerate activities that are counter to our Christian values. Under the Texas statute, hazing means “*any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization.*” As Christians our accountability is to a higher power than that of only the law. With this in mind, all activities should reflect a spirit of love and respect for all of God’s children. Behaviors prohibited by Abilene Christian University include, but are not limited to:

1. Any type of personal servitude or requirement to purchase goods for members.
2. Any activity that creates an environment that endangers new members through restriction of the senses.
3. Any activity that requires excessive sleep deprivation.
4. Any activity that requires new members to partially or fully disrobe.
5. Any activity involving physical touching intended to inflict pain such as paddling, striking, whipping, shoving, electric shock, branding, or burning of new members.
6. Any activity that requires one to eat or drink anything or place any foreign object in any orifice of the body.
7. Any activity that requires new members to endure environments that create physical or emotional discomfort or that endanger one’s physical safety.
8. Any activity that involves abandoning, binding, shaving or confining of new members.
9. Any activity that occurs without the presence of an approved advisor.
10. Any failure to comply with the directives of a club advisor or any other University official, including interns from the Office of Student Organizations and Programs.
11. Any activity that involves placing substances on a pledge or placing a pledge in substances, unless approved by the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs.
12. Any activity that requires pledges to be tested orally. (Accountability for learning club history and traditions may only be checked by asking pledges to take written examinations without distraction).
13. Any activity that requires physical exertion for the sake of physical exertion.
14. Any repetitive physical activity that could be considered callisthenic in nature.
15. Any activity that constitutes a negative form of group discipline (punishment).
16. Any activity that constitutes correction of an individual pledge unless conducted only in the presence of the officers and advisors and is constructive and incremental.
17. Any activity that involves water unless in a swimming pool with appropriate supervision.
18. Any yelling of derogatory, insulting or threatening language.

Completion of Pledging Requirements

In order to become a member of a social club, each prospective member must complete a list of requirements set forth by each club. These requirements will include things such as attendance at activities, float prep, float hours, etc. A list of the requirements must be submitted by the club

officers, with their pledging proposal, to the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs for approval *before* pledging begins. Each prospective member must be given a list of these requirements at the beginning of the pledging period so they know what is expected of them.

If a provisional member fails to meet the requirements set forth by the social club, they may not be invited to achieve member status. In such a case, the president of the social club should give these names to the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs with appropriate documentation before the conclusion of pledging. After review, the club president will give the prospective members who did not complete their requirements the same documentation.

Morning Activities

Morning activities can only occur if approved during the first week of pledging. The remaining weeks, morning meetings may occur if approved by The Office of Student Programs and Activities.

Bid Night

Bid Night will be Friday, September 25, 2015. The end time for Bid Night has the potential to vary from club to club. Approved activities can occur until 5 a.m. If Bid Night extends until 5 a.m., no activities can be scheduled for the remainder of that day.

Blind Folds

Blindfolds, if used at all, must be utilized in safe and appropriate ways, and never for the purposes of fear or intimidation. The following guidelines must be met any time blindfolds are used:

- 1) No one may be left in a blindfold for more than 10 minutes.
- 2) If the person blindfolded is not sitting or in a stationary position, there must be one seeing person to guide each person that is blindfolded.

Chapel

During Chapel it is important for all club members and pledges to maintain a level of anonymity and decorum so as not to distract others in the ACU community during this public time of worship. Pledging should not be part of the Chapel atmosphere, as this is a special time for community, fellowship and worship on the ACU campus. Pledge classes are allowed sit together in Chapel. However, social club members or prospective members cannot reserve a section for the entire pledge class to sit together. Prospective members should be encouraged to attend Chapel as normal during the school year. Should a pledge or a pledge class exhibit any form of disruptive or disrespectful behavior as determined by the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs in Chapel, that pledge class will not be allowed to sit together for the remainder of the pledging process, and other sanctions may be applied.

It has been the tradition of many clubs to have a brief meeting with prospective members immediately following Chapel. These meetings must take place outside of Moody Coliseum so as not to disrupt registration of Chapel attendance by both prospective members, and other

members of the ACU community. No meeting should take place before each prospective member has been allowed to “slide out” of Chapel. Asking one club member to slide several cards to allow attendance at a postchapel club meeting is a **violation** of the Student Handbook.

The Wearing of Colors During the Pledging Period

1. All student organizations participating in a pledging process to welcome prospective members will comply with the stated policy regarding the wearing of colors. Failure to comply with established guidelines may result in loss of privileges such as wearing colors.
2. In keeping with the University’s tradition, all prospective members and members will be asked to wear “purple and white” on Fridays as a sign of school spirit and unity. Organizations will not ask their prospective members to wear colors other than purple and white on Fridays.
3. The wearing of colors by prospective members during the pledging period is considered a privilege. As such, prospective members may not be “required” to wear colors, but may be “asked” or “allowed” to wear colors. **Prospective members will not be asked to wear colors to church, work, or during any other activity at which such attire might be deemed inappropriate.**
4. All social clubs will submit their proposed plans for the wearing of colors during any pledging activities to the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs for approval.
5. Men and women have the option of formal attire Mondays through Thursdays with parameters to wear various attire that is approved by the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs. Clubs may decide how this would best be incorporated into their pledging process, but the rationale behind colors should meet the expectations and requirements for all pledging activities. Through this process, when pledges are wearing club colors or t-shirts, members should also wear club memorabilia to show solidarity in promoting club spirit. Clubs should take special care in recognizing wearing colors as a privilege, not a punishment.

Locations for Activities

As plans are made for activities, especially during the pledging period, safety is of greatest concern. Therefore, the University has established the following criteria for acceptable activity locations:

- 1) Area must be well lit. Car headlights **are not** appropriate forms of lighting.
- 2) Running water and closed-in restrooms must be readily available.
- 3) Advisors must be comfortable with the location

The final decision on any location will be made by the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs. Failure by club officers to provide accurate details or locations for any club activity may result in cancellation of the activity. Maps for all off-campus locations must be submitted to the Office of Student Organizations and Programs with the activity proposals.

HAZING

ACU will not tolerate hazing as defined by Texas law. Moreover, ACU strongly discourages any action that degrades, intimidates, humiliates, or endangers any individual. The University reserves the right, for its private administrative purposes, to define conduct as “hazing” whether or not it would constitute hazing under the Texas law. All acts of hazing and any act that transgresses ACU’s Student Handbook will receive the full range of discipline set forth by the current Student Handbook. Ignorance of Christian principles, cultural meanings, and Texas law will not constitute immunity from appropriate University discipline, including dismissal from the University.

As hazing activities have become public across the United States, many universities and national fraternities are working hard to eliminate any activity that could be considered hazing. ACU has created policies and procedures that are intended to protect and preserve students, club traditions, and the ACU community.

Reporting Hazing Violations

Because the charge to build Christian community and protect each other from inappropriate treatment is greater than the charge to protect a person who is mistreating others, all members are responsible to report suspected hazing to one or all of the following: 1) a social club/student organization adviser, 2) the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Programs, 3) the Dean of Student Life, and/or 4) an anonymous reporting form on the hazing website: www.acu.edu/hazing. (You are not required to provide your name or contact information. If you wish to remain anonymous, begin filling in the form in the “Date of Incident” space provided.)

Failing to Report: Under Texas Law, the offense of failing to report is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in county jail for not more than 180 days, or both such fine and confinement. If you are a student at Abilene Christian University and fail to report a hazing violation, you may be subject to disciplinary action.

Administrative Immunity: Any person reporting a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution to the Dean of Students or other appropriate official of the institution is immune from liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of the report. Immunity extends to participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from the report. A person reporting in bad faith or with malice is not protected. ACU provides such immunity under the Non-Disciplinary Process/Administrative Agreements Policy.

Texas Hazing Law Defined

Below is an abbreviated summary of the Texas Education Code, Section 51.936 and Subchapter F, Chapter 37, Sections 37.151-158. The following Hazing Law was passed by the Texas State Legislature relating to offenses related to hazing at or in connection with an educational institution. To view the law in its entirety, please visit: www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us

Definition of Terms (Sec 4.51)

- “Pledge” means any person who has been accepted by, is considering an offer of membership from, or is in the process of qualifying for membership in any organization.

- “Pledging” means any action or activity related to becoming a member of an organization.
- “Organization” means a fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, cooperative, club, or service, social, or a similar group, whose members are primarily students at an educational institution.
- “Hazing” means any intentional knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are students at an educational institution.

The term includes but is not limited to:

- a) any type of physical brutality, such as:
 - whipping,
 - beating,
 - striking,
 - branding,
 - electronic shock,
 - placing of a harmful substance on the body
 - or similar activity;
- b) any type of physical activity, such as:
 - sleep deprivation,
 - exposure to the elements,
 - confinement in a small space,
 - calisthenics or
 - other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk or harm, or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
- c) any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug or other substance which subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or which adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
- d) any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to:
 - extreme mental stress,
 - shame, or humiliation, or
 - that adversely affects the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or
 - that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subsection;
- e) any activity that induces, causes or requires the student to perform a duty or task which involves a violation of the Education Code. Sec. 4.52.

Persons Subject to Prosecution/Administrative Action (Sec. 4. 52)

A person commits an offense if the person:

- engages in hazing;
- solicits, encourages, directs, aids or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing;
- intentionally, knowingly or recklessly permits hazing to occur; or

- has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution or firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report said knowledge in writing to the Dean of Students or other appropriate officials of the institution.

1. The offense of failing to report is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in county jail for not more than 180 days, or both such fine and confinement.
2. Any other offense under this section which does not cause serious bodily injury to another is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, confinement in county jail for not less than 90 days nor more than 180 days, or both such fine and confinement.
3. Any other offense under this section which causes serious bodily injury to another is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000, confinement in county jail for not less than 180 days nor more than one year, or both such fine and confinement.
4. Any other offense under this section which causes the death of another is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000, confinement in county jail for not less than one year nor more than two years, or both such fine and confinement.
5. Except when an offense causes the death of a student, in sentencing a person convicted of an offense under this section, the court may require the person to perform community service, subject to the same conditions imposed on community service probationers by Subdivision (1), Subsection (e), and Subsections (c), (d), (g), (h) of Section 10A. Article 42.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, for an appropriate period of time in lieu of confinement in county jail or in lieu of a part of the time the person is sentenced to confinement in county jail.

Refer to the Categories of Student Conduct Violations below to review the university's disciplinary sanctions for hazing violations.

Organizations Subject to Prosecution/Administrative Action (Sec. 5.53)

An organization commits an offense if the organization condones or encourages hazing or if an officer or any combination of members, pledges, or alumni of the organization commits or assists in the commission of hazing.

An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000, or if a court finds that the offense caused personal injury, property damage, or other loss. The court may sentence the organization to pay a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than double the amount loss or expenses incurred because of such injury, damage, or loss.

Refer to the Categories of Student Conduct Violations below to review the university's disciplinary sanctions for hazing violations.

Consent Not a Defense (Sec. 4.54)

It is not a defense to prosecution for the offense under this subchapter that the person against whom the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.

Immunity From Prosecution Available (Sec. 4.55)

In the prosecution of an offense under this subchapter, the court may grant immunity from prosecution for the offense to each person who is subpoenaed to testify for the prosecution and does testify for the prosecution. Any person reporting a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution to the Dean of Students or other appropriate official of the institution is immune from liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of the report. Immunity extends to participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from the report. A person reporting in bad faith or with malice is not protected by this section. ACU provides such immunity under the Non-Disciplinary Process/Administrative Agreements Policy.

Offenses in Addition to Other Penal Provisions (Sec. 4.56)

This subchapter does not affect or repeal any penal law of this state. Nothing in this subchapter shall limit or affect the right of an educational institution to enforce its own penalties against hazing.

Reporting by Medical Authorities (Sec. 4.57)

Treatment of a student who may have been subjected to hazing activities may be reported to police or other law enforcement officials. The doctor or medical practitioner so reporting shall be immune from civil suit or other liability that might otherwise be imposed or incurred as a result of the report, unless the report is made in bad faith or with malice.

Publication of Subchapter (Sec. 4.58)

1. Each postsecondary educational institution shall cause to be published or distributed to each student during the first three weeks of each semester a summary of the provisions of this subchapter.
2. The institution shall publish or distribute in the same manner a list of organizations that have been disciplined for hazing or convicted for hazing on or off the campus of the institution during the previous three years.
3. If the institution publishes a general catalog, student handbook, or similar publication, it shall publish a summary of the provisions of this subchapter in each edition of that catalog, handbook, or similar publication.

Categories Of Student Conduct Violations (Related To Hazing)

(ADAPTED FROM THE 2015-2016 STUDENT HANDBOOK)

Consequences for acts of hazing include, but are not limited to, suspension of club activities or suspension of club from campus. Listed below are levels of student conduct violations along with possible sanctions for each level.

Category One: These actions against the Christian standards of conduct set forth in the Student Handbook may result in disciplinary warnings with or without additional conditions or alternative requirements, such as counseling, community service, or mentoring. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *Any ridicule and discipline of new members for not remembering or learning club traditions or members' names.
- *Any type of verbal abuse or intimidation of a new member.
- *Any type of personal servitude or requirement to purchase goods for members.
- *Any activity which degrades, humiliates, or intimidates a new member.

Category Two: These actions may result in a minimum disciplinary response of conduct probation with additional conditions or alternative requirements, including suspension from pledging or from active club/organization membership for a specified period. An entire club/organization may be placed on probation and have its current pledge period terminated. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *Any blindfolding of prospective members creating an environment which endangers prospective members through restricting their senses.
- *Any type of humiliation based on the physical or personal characteristics or personal convictions of prospective members.
- *Any activity requiring prospective members to place themselves in any foreign substance or shaving or otherwise marking their bodies.
- *Any excessive sleep deprivation of prospective members.
- *Any activity that requires prospective members to partially or fully disrobe.
- *Any activity that occurs without the presence of an approved advisor.

Category Three: These actions may result in an individual's suspension or dismissal from the University for one or more semesters, including indefinitely, and the suspension of an entire club/organization for one or more years. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *Any activity which creates significant emotional trauma for a new member.
- *Any physical abuse such as paddling, striking, whipping, shoving, electric shock, branding, or burning of prospective members.
- *Any physical abuse that forces prospective members to eat or drink anything or place any foreign object in any orifice of the body.
- *Any requirement of prospective members to endure environments that create extreme physical or emotional discomfort or endanger physical safety.
- *Any "dogging", abandoning, binding, or confining of prospective members.
- *Any failure to comply with the directives of a club advisor or any university official.

For additional information regarding hazing, please visit www.stophazing.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any questions or clarifications may be directed to the Student Organizations and Programs Office.

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