University Conduct System Authority and Jurisdiction

Summary/Purpose: To describe the authority and jurisdiction of the University conduct system.

The authority and jurisdiction of the University conduct system is established pursuant to the delegation of legal authority by the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. In Article IX, section (5) of the Bylaws and Policies of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the Chancellor of The University of Mississippi is charged with the responsibility of maintaining appropriate standards of conduct for students and is authorized to expel, dismiss, suspend, and/or place limitations on continued attendance and/or levy penalties for disciplinary violations subject to procedures of due process. The Chancellor exercises this delegated authority through the University conduct system and other University processes.

The Student Code of Conduct and the jurisdiction of the University conduct system shall apply to conduct that occurs on University premises, at University sponsored or associated events or activities, and to off-campus conduct that has institutional implications. The Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct shall initially determine whether the University conduct system has jurisdiction to apply the student code to conduct occurring off campus on a case by case basis based on the considerations listed below. This determination is final.

- Charged student was acting as a representative of the University
- Charged student was traveling to or from campus
- Degree of violence that occurred
- Injuries to students or others
- Extent of danger posed to the University community
- Conduct was directed at another member of the University community
- Involvement of a student organization
- Incident may result in a felony charge
- Weapons, drugs or alcohol were involved
- Date of incident
- Conduct history of student(s) involved
- Proximity to campus
- Charged student lives on campus
- The relationship the University has with the student at the time of the alleged violation

Each student shall be responsible for his or her conduct from the time of application of admission through the actual awarding of a degree, even though conduct may occur during periods between terms of actual enrollment and even if the conduct is not discovered until after a degree is awarded.

The University conduct system is designed to further the University’s educational mission and therefore, it is neither comparable to nor a substitute for any federal, state, or local criminal or civil court system. Thus, even if a violation of University policy also subjects a student or
organization to criminal or civil liability, the determination of whether University policy was violated will be made on the basis of a preponderance of the evidence (whether it was more likely than not that a violation occurred). Any criminal or civil proceeding may use a different or higher standard of proof. It is important for students to realize that each judicial proceeding to which they may be subject occurs on a separate track, and it is not necessary for any campus process to be held in abeyance until off-campus proceedings are completed.