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7. U. T. System Board of Regents: Report from Professor Hank Nuwer, a national expert on the prevention of hazing

Chancellor Cigarroa presented introductory remarks related to the health and safety of students on University of Texas System campuses. He stated that Texas has clear criminal laws defining and prohibiting hazing. In addition, Regents' *Rules and Regulations* and U. T. System institutional policies subject students and organizations to strong disciplinary action, including expulsion, for hazing violations. Chancellor Cigarroa had asked the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of General Counsel to review policies and practices to identify any actions that could be taken to further address the elimination of hazing at U. T. System institutions.

Dr. Cigarroa then introduced Professor Hank Nuwer, Franklin College, Indiana, a national expert on the prevention of hazing.

Professor Nuwer addressed the Board about the definition of hazing, which is any behavior that is required of a newcomer by a veteran that is surly, dangerous, or demeaning. He spoke about the reasons hazing occurs, where it occurs, and how best to work to achieve a hazing-free environment. Noting that he ranks Texas law as fourth in the country with regard to hazing, his recommendations to prevent hazing include

- start a campus task force now and get faculty involved;
- be transparent;
- have related policies and procedures and implement punishments, holding pledges and rookies accountable;
- engage in undergraduate student education, buy-in, and mentoring;
- look at collaborative efforts with fraternities and sororities and solutions based on science instead of emotions;
- encourage awareness and reporting by area medical personnel;
- encourage improved media exposure;
- encourage efforts by faculty and alumni and foster a culture of the freedom to speak out;
- revamp new member programs; and
- have new fraternities and clubs identify their traditions and look for risky practices.

Chairman Powell stated that the Board has a zero tolerance rule on hazing or bullying of any kind, and he asked Chancellor Cigarroa to review ways to strengthen policies.

8. U. T. System Board of Regents: Amendments to the Regents' Rules and Regulations, Rule 50101, regarding Student Conduct and Discipline

The Board amended the Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 50101, regarding Student Conduct and Discipline, to read as set forth on Page 28.

This revision replaces former Regents' Rule 50101 with a statement of policy regarding student conduct and discipline. Under the new Rule, each University of Texas System institution is required to adopt a student discipline policy to be reviewed and approved by the Office of General Counsel and the appropriate Executive Vice Chancellor.

The specific requirements for each institution's policy is to be consistent with a new Office of General Counsel model policy, based upon the former Rule 50101. This approval is consistent with the policy and procedure structure of other Regents' Rules, including Rule 30105 regarding Sexual Harassment and Misconduct.

Details of the model policy were discussed in recent meetings of institutional judicial affairs officers, the U. T. System Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and representatives of the Office of General Counsel. Specifically, the proposed model policy would provide for a more efficient hearing process, while complying with due process requirements. These amendments have been presented to U. T. System Student Advisory Council representatives without objection.

Significant changes to be addressed in the model policy include the following:

- Clarify that a student is subject to discipline for prohibited conduct that occurs on or off campus, and remove redundant language.
- Include a statement that students who knowingly fail to report hazing are subject to discipline.
- Require a student who has been suspended or expelled for disciplinary reasons, but is requesting approval to be present on a U. T. System institution campus, to disclose in writing to the chief student affairs officer information regarding each institution from which the individual has been suspended or expelled and the conduct leading to the disciplinary action.