

**RULES  
OF  
THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS  
STATE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF TENNESSEE**

**SYSTEMWIDE STUDENT RULES  
CHAPTER 0240-02-03  
STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

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**0240-02-03-.01 INSTITUTION POLICY STATEMENT.**

- (1) Students enrolled in postsecondary educational institutions are citizens of their civic communities as well as the academic community. As such they are expected to conduct themselves as law-abiding members of each community at all times. Admission to an institution of postsecondary education carries with it special privileges and imposes special responsibilities apart from those rights and duties enjoyed by non-students. In recognition of the special relationship that exists between the institution and the academic community which it seeks to serve, the Tennessee Board of Regents ("TBR" or "the Board") has authorized the presidents of the institutions and directors of the colleges of applied technology under its jurisdiction to take such action as may be necessary to maintain campus conditions and preserve the integrity of the institution and its educational environment.
- (2) Pursuant to this authorization and in fulfillment of its duties to provide a secure and stimulating atmosphere in which individual and academic pursuits may flourish, the TBR has developed the following regulations, which are intended to govern student conduct on the several campuses under its jurisdiction. Each institution under the jurisdiction of the TBR is directed to implement policies subject to, and consistent with, these regulations. In student discipline policies, each institution may supplement these regulations, subject to prior review and approval by the TBR Offices of General Counsel and Academic Affairs. In addition, students are subject to all federal, state and local laws and ordinances. If a student's violation of such laws or ordinances also adversely affects the institution's pursuit of its educational objectives, the institutions may enforce their own policies regardless of the status or outcome of any external proceedings instituted by other civil or criminal authorities.
- (3) For the purpose of these regulations, a "student" shall mean any person who is admitted and/or registered for study at a TBR institution for any academic period. This shall include any period of time following admission and/or registration, but preceding the start of classes for any academic period. It will also include any period which follows the end of an academic period through the last day for registration for the succeeding academic period, and during any period while the student is under suspension from the institution. "Student" shall also include any person subject to a period of suspension or removal from campus as a sanction which results from a finding of a violation of the policies and regulations governing student conduct. Students are responsible for compliance with the Rules of Student Conduct and with similar institutional policies at all times.
- (4) Disciplinary action may be taken against a student for violation of the policies and regulations which occur on institutionally owned, leased or otherwise controlled property, while participating in international or distance learning programs, and off campus, when the

(Rule 0240-02-03-.01, continued)

conduct impairs, interferes with, or obstructs any institutional activity or the mission, processes, and functions of the institution.

- (5) These regulations, and related material incorporated herein by reference, are applicable to student organizations as well as individual students. Student organizations are subject to discipline for the conduct and actions of individual members of the organization while acting in their capacity as members of, or while attending or participating in any activity of, the organization.
- (6) Confidentiality of Discipline Process. Subject to the exceptions provided pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g and/or the Tennessee Open Records Act, T.C.A. § 10-7-504(a)(4), a student's disciplinary files are considered "educational records" and are confidential within the meaning of those Acts.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-101 et seq. and 49-8-203. **Administrative History:** Repeal of all rules by Public Chapter 261; effective July 1, 1983. New rule filed April 28, 1983; effective July 13, 1983. Amendment filed August 28, 1984; effective November 13, 1984. Amendment filed November 12, 2008; effective March 30, 2009. Repeal and new rule filed August 10, 2011; effective January 29, 2012. Amendment filed August 18, 2015; effective November 15, 2015.

#### 0240-02-03-.02 DISCIPLINARY OFFENSES.

- (1) Institutional disciplinary measures shall be imposed, through appropriate due process procedures, for conduct which adversely affects the institution's pursuit of its educational objectives, which violates or shows a disregard for the rights of other members of the academic community, or which endangers property or persons on property owned or controlled by an institution.
- (2) Institutions shall adopt and publish a non-exclusive list, providing notice of offenses for which both individuals and organizations may be subject to disciplinary action. The list may include any appropriate offense given the specific needs of the individual institution, subject to prior review and approval by the TBR Offices of General Counsel and Academic Affairs. Institutions are pre-authorized to implement any or all of the disciplinary offenses, in the form set forth immediately below, without need for prior review or approval by the TBR Offices of General Counsel and Academic Affairs:
  - (a) Threatening or Disruptive Conduct. Any conduct, or attempted conduct, which poses a threat to the safety of others or where the student's behavior is disruptive of the institution's learning environment;
  - (b) Hazing. Hazing, as defined in T.C.A. § 49-7-123(a)(1), means any intentional or reckless act, on or off the property, of any higher education institution by an individual acting alone, or with others, which is directed against any other person(s) that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that person(s), or which induces or coerces a person(s) to endanger such person(s) mental or physical health or safety. Hazing does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions, and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization;
  - (c) Disorderly Conduct. Any individual or group behavior which is abusive, obscene, lewd, indecent, violent, excessively noisy, disorderly, or which unreasonably disturbs institutional functions, operations, classrooms, other groups or individuals;
  - (d) Obstruction of or Interference with Institutional Activities or Facilities. Any intentional interference with or obstruction of any institutional program, event, or facility including the following:

(Rule 0240-02-03-.02, continued)

1. Any unauthorized occupancy of facilities owned or controlled by an institution or blockage of access to or from such facilities,
  2. Interference with the right of any institution member or other authorized person to gain access to any activity, program, event or facilities sponsored or controlled by an institution,
  3. Any obstruction or delay of a campus security officer, public safety officer, police officer, firefighter, EMT, or any official of an institution, or failure to comply with any emergency directive issued by such person in the performance of his or her duty;
- (e) Misuse of or Damage to Property. Any act of misuse, vandalism, malicious or unwarranted damage or destruction, defacing, disfiguring or unauthorized use of property belonging to another including, but not limited to, any personal property, fire alarms, fire equipment, elevators, telephones, institution keys, library materials and/or safety devices;
- (f) Theft, Misappropriation, or Unauthorized Sale of Property;
- (g) Misuse of Documents or Identification Cards. Any forgery, alteration of or unauthorized use of institutional documents, forms, records or identification cards, including the giving of any false information, or withholding of necessary information, in connection with a student's admission, enrollment or status in the institution;
- (h) Firearms and Other Dangerous Weapons. Any possession of or use of firearms, dangerous weapons of any kind, or replica/toy guns, e.g. BB guns, pellet guns, paintball guns, water guns, cap guns, toy knives or other items that simulate firearms or dangerous weapons;
- (i) Explosives, Fireworks, and Flammable Materials. The unauthorized possession, ignition or detonation of any object or article which would cause damage by fire or other means to persons or property or possession of any substance which could be considered to be and used as fireworks;
- (j) Alcoholic Beverages. The use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages on institution owned or controlled property. This offense includes the violation of any local ordinance, state, or federal law concerning alcoholic beverages, on or off institution owned or controlled property, where an affiliated group or organization has alcoholic beverages present and available for consumption;
- (k) Drugs. The unlawful possession or use of any drug or controlled substance (including, but not limited to, any stimulant, depressant, narcotic or hallucinogenic drug, or marijuana), sale or distribution of any such drug or controlled substance. This offense includes the violation of any local ordinance, state, or federal law concerning the unlawful possession or use of drugs, on or off institution owned or controlled property;
- (l) Drug Paraphernalia. The use or possession of equipment, products or materials that are used or intended for use in manufacturing, growing, using or distributing any drug or controlled substance. This offense includes the violation of any local ordinance, state, or federal law concerning the unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, on or off institution owned or controlled property;

(Rule 0240-02-03-.02, continued)

- (m) Public Intoxication. Appearing on institution owned or controlled property or at an institutional sponsored event while under the influence of a controlled substance or of any other intoxicating substance;
- (n) Gambling. Unlawful gambling in any form;
- (o) Financial Irresponsibility. Failure to meet financial responsibilities to the institution promptly including, but not limited to, knowingly passing a worthless check or money order in payment to the institution;
- (p) Unacceptable Conduct in Disciplinary Proceedings. Any conduct at any stage of an institutional disciplinary proceeding or investigation that is contemptuous, disrespectful, threatening, or disorderly, including false complaints, testimony or other evidence, and attempts to influence the impartiality of a member of a judicial body, verbal or physical harassment or intimidation of a judicial board member, complainant, respondent or witness;
- (q) Failure to Cooperate with Institutional Officials. Failure to comply with directions of institutional officials acting in the performance of their duties;
- (r) Violation of General Policies. Any violation of the general policies of the institution as published in an official institutional publication, including the intentional failure to perform any required action or the intentional performance of any prohibited action;
- (s) Attempts, Aiding and Abetting. Any attempt to commit any of the offenses listed under this section or the aiding or abetting of the commission of any of the offenses listed under this section (an attempt to commit an offense is defined as the intention to commit the offense coupled with the taking of some action toward its commission). Being present during the planning or commission of any offense listed under this section will be considered as aiding and abetting. Students who anticipate or observe an offense must remove themselves from the situation and are required to report the offense to the institution;
- (t) Violations of State or Federal Laws. Any violation of state or federal laws or regulations proscribing conduct or establishing offenses, if a student's violation of such laws or regulations also adversely affects the institution's pursuit of its educational objectives;
- (u) Violation of Imposed Disciplinary Sanctions. Intentional or unintentional violation of a disciplinary sanction officially imposed by an institution official or a constituted body of the institution;
- (v) Sexual Misconduct. Committing any act of sexual misconduct as defined by TBR Policy 6:03:00:00;
- (w) Harassment or Retaliation. Any act by an individual or group against another person or group in violation of TBR policies, as well as federal and/or state laws prohibiting discrimination, including, but not limited to, TBR policies 5:01:02:00,(F), 6:01:00:00, 6:02:00:00, and TBR Guideline P-080;
- (x) Academic Misconduct. Plagiarism, cheating, fabrication. For purposes of this section the following definitions apply:
  - 1. Plagiarism. The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution,

(Rule 0240-02-03-.02, continued)

2. Cheating. Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or aids in any academic exercise or test/examination. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours,
  3. Fabrication. Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- (y) Unauthorized Duplication or Possession of Keys. Making, causing to be made or the possession of, with the intent to use or make available for use by others, any key for an institutional facility without proper authorization;
- (z) Litter. Dispersing litter in any form onto the grounds or facilities of the campus;
- (aa) Pornography. Public display of literature, films, pictures or other materials which an average person applying contemporary community standards would find, (1) taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest, (2) depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way, and (3) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value;
- (bb) Abuse of Computer Resources and Facilities. Misusing and/or abusing campus computer resources including, but not limited to the following:
1. Use of another person's identification to gain access to institutional computer resources,
  2. Use of institutional computer resources and facilities to violate copyright laws, including, but not limited to, the act of unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials using institutional information technology systems,
  3. Unauthorized access to a computer or network file, including but not limited to, altering, using, reading, copying, or deleting the file,
  4. Unauthorized transfer of a computer or network file,
  5. Use of computing resources and facilities to send abusive or obscene correspondence,
  6. Use of computing resources and facilities in a manner that interferes with normal operation of the institutional computing system,
  7. Use of computing resources and facilities to interfere with the work of another student, faculty member, or institutional official,
  8. Violation of any published information technology resources policy,
  9. Unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing;
- (cc) Unauthorized Access to Institutional Facilities and/or Grounds. Any unauthorized access and/or occupancy of institutional facilities and grounds is prohibited, including, but not limited to, gaining access to facilities and grounds that are closed to the public, being present in areas of campus that are open to limited guests only, being present in academic buildings after hours without permission, and being present in buildings when the student has no legitimate reason to be present;

(Rule 0240-02-03-.02, continued)

- (dd) Providing False Information. Giving any false information to, or withholding necessary information from, any institutional official acting in the performance of his/her duties in connection with a student's admission, enrollment, or status in the institution;
  - (ee) Unauthorized Surveillance. Making or causing to be made unauthorized video or photographic images of a person in a location in which that person has a reasonable expectation of privacy, without the prior effective consent of the individual, or in the case of a minor, without the prior effective consent of the minor's parent or guardian. This includes, but is not limited to, taking video or photographic images in shower/locker rooms, residence hall rooms, and men's or women's restrooms, and storing, sharing, and/or distributing of such unauthorized images by any means;
  - (ff) Smoking Violations. Violation of any TBR and/or institutional smoking or other tobacco use rules or policies.
- (3) Disciplinary action may be taken against a student for violations of the foregoing regulations or institutional policies which occur at or in association with enrollment at an institution governed by the TBR for any academic period. Each student shall be responsible for his/her conduct from the time of application for admission through the actual awarding of a degree including periods prior to or between semesters. Conduct occurring while a student is registered or enrolled at the institution, but not discovered until after the student leaves the institution, including after the awarding of a degree is actionable under these provisions and may result in the retroactive application of a disciplinary sanction. Should a student withdraw from the institution with disciplinary action or academic misconduct action pending, the student's record may be encumbered by the appropriate institutional office until the proceedings have been concluded.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-101 et seq., 49-7-123(a)(1) and 49-8-203. **Administrative History:** Repeal of all rules by the Public Chapter 261; effective July 1, 1983. New rule filed April 28, 1983; effective July 13, 1983. Amendment filed August 28, 1984; effective November 13, 1984. Amendment filed May 13, 1991; effective August 28, 1991. Amendment filed July 3, 1996; effective November 28, 1996. Amendment filed November 20, 1996; effective March 28, 1997. Amendment filed February 18, 1999; effective June 28, 1999. Amendment filed August 11, 2004; effective December 29, 2004. Amendments filed November 12, 2008; effective March 30, 2009. Repeal and new rule filed August 10, 2011; effective January 29, 2012. Emergency rule filed August 18, 2015; effective through February 14, 2016. Amendment filed August 18, 2015; effective November 15, 2015.

#### **0240-02-03-.03 ACADEMIC AND CLASSROOM MISCONDUCT.**

- (1) The instructor has the primary responsibility for maintenance of academic integrity and controlling classroom behavior, and can order the temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or conduct that violates these rules, or policies of the institution, for each class session during which the conduct occurs. Extended or permanent exclusion from the classroom, beyond the session in which the conduct occurred, or further disciplinary action can be effected only through appropriate procedures of the institution.
- (2) Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly, through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed through the regular institutional disciplinary procedures, the instructor has the authority to assign an appropriate grade for the exercise or examination, proportional to the nature and extent of academic misconduct. Disciplinary sanctions will be imposed only through the appropriate institutional student disciplinary processes.

(Rule 0240-02-03-.03, continued)

- (3) Students may appeal a grade assignment associated with a finding of academic misconduct, as distinct from a student disciplinary sanction, through appropriate institutional academic misconduct or grade appeal procedures. Courses may not be dropped pending the final resolution of an allegation of academic misconduct.
- (4) Disruptive behavior in the classroom may be defined as, but not limited to, behavior that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment (e.g., offensive language, harassment of students and professors, repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught, failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum, etc.), text messaging, and the continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-101 et seq. and 49-8-203. **Administrative History:** Repeal of all rules by Public Chapter 261; effective July 1, 1983. New rule filed April 28, 1983; effective July 13, 1983. Amendment filed August 28, 1984; effective November 13, 1984. Amendment filed August 11, 2004; effective December 29, 2004. Repeal and new rule filed August 10, 2011; effective January 29, 2012. Amendment filed August 18, 2015; effective November 15, 2015.

#### 0240-02-03-.04 DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS.

- (1) Institutions shall adopt and publish a policy, providing notice of potential disciplinary sanctions applicable to both individuals and organizations. The policy may include any appropriate sanction, given the specific needs of the individual institution, subject to prior review and approval by the TBR Offices of General Counsel and Academic Affairs. Institutions are pre-authorized to implement any or all of the sanctions, in the form set forth in sub-section (2) below, without need for prior review or approval. Upon a determination that a student or student organization has violated any of the disciplinary offenses set forth in these regulations, institutional disciplinary policies, or the general policies of an institution, disciplinary sanctions may be imposed, either singly or in combination, by the appropriate institution or school officials.
- (2) Definition of Sanctions:
  - (a) Restitution. Restitution may be required in situations which involve destruction, damage, or loss of property, or unreimbursed medical expenses resulting from physical injury. When restitution is required, the student or student organization is obligated by the appropriate judicial authority to compensate a party or parties for a loss suffered as a result of disciplinary violation(s). Any such payment in restitution shall be limited to actual cost of repair, replacement or financial loss;
  - (b) Warning. The appropriate institutional official may notify the student or student organization that continuation or repetition of specified conduct may be cause for other disciplinary action;
  - (c) Reprimand. A written or verbal reprimand or censure may be given to any student or student organization whose conduct violates any part of these regulations and provides notice that any further violation(s) may result in more serious penalties;
  - (d) Service to the Institution or Community. A student, or student organization, may be required to donate a specified number of service hours to the institution performing reasonable tasks for an appropriate institution office, official(s), or the local community. The service required shall be commensurate to the offense (e.g., service for maintenance staff for defacing institutional property);

(Rule 0240-02-03-.04, continued)

- (e) Specified Educational/Counseling Program. A student or student organization may be required to participate in specified educational or counseling program(s) relevant to the offense, or to prepare a project or report concerning a relevant topic;
- (f) Apology. A student or student organization may be required to apologize to an affected party, either verbally or in writing, for the behavior related to a disciplinary offense;
- (g) Fines. Penalties in the form of fines may be imposed against a student or student organization whenever the appropriate institutional authority deems appropriate. The sanction of fines may be imposed in addition to other forms of disciplinary sanctions. Failure to pay fines may result in further disciplinary action;
- (h) Restriction. A restriction upon a student's or student organization's privileges for a period of time may be imposed. This restriction may include, for example, denial of the ability to represent the institution at any event, ability to participate in institution or TBR sponsored travel, use of facilities, parking privileges, participation in extracurricular activities or restriction of organizational privileges;
- (i) Probation. Continued enrollment of a student or recognition of a student organization on probation may be conditioned upon adherence to these regulations. Any student or organization placed on probation will be notified in writing of the terms and length of the probation. Probation may include restrictions upon extracurricular activities, or any other appropriate special condition(s). Any conduct in further violation of these regulations while on probationary status or the failure to comply with the terms of the probationary period may result in the imposition of further disciplinary action;
- (j) Suspension. Suspension is the separation of a student or student organization from the institution for a specified period of time. Suspension may be accompanied by special conditions for readmission or recognition;
- (k) Expulsion. Expulsion entails a permanent separation from the institution. The imposition of this sanction is a permanent bar to the student's admission, or a student organization's recognition to the institution. A student or organization that has been expelled may not enter institution property or facilities without obtaining prior approval from an appropriate campus official with knowledge of the expulsion directive;
- (l) Revocation of Admission, Degree, or Credential;
- (m) Interim Involuntary Withdrawal or Suspension. As a general rule, the status of a student or student organization accused of violation of these regulations or institutional policies should not be altered until a final determination has been made in regard to the charges. However, interim involuntary withdrawal or suspension, pending the completion of disciplinary procedures, may be imposed upon a finding by the appropriate institutional official that the conduct, or attempted conduct of the student poses a direct threat to the safety of any other member of the institution, its guests, property, or the student's behavior is materially and substantially disruptive of the institution's learning environment, or other campus activities. In any case of interim involuntary withdrawal or suspension, the student, or student organization, shall be given an opportunity at the time of the decision, or as soon thereafter as reasonably possible, to contest the suspension;
- (n) Housing Probation. Continued residence in campus or student housing may be conditioned upon adherence to these regulations as well as institutional housing policies. Any resident placed on housing probation will be notified in writing of the terms and length of the probation. Probation may include restrictions upon the activities of the resident, including any other appropriate special condition(s);

(Rule 0240-02-03-.04, continued)

- (o) Housing Suspension and Forfeiture. A resident suspended from housing may not reside, visit, or make any use whatsoever of a housing facility or participate in any housing activity during the period for which the sanction is in effect. A suspended resident shall be required to forfeit housing fees (including any unused portion thereof and the Housing Deposit). A suspended resident must vacate the housing unit. Housing suspension shall remain a part of the student resident's disciplinary record.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-101 et seq. and 49-8-203. **Administrative History:** Repeal of all rules by Public Chapter 261; effective July 1, 1983. New rule filed April 28, 1983; effective July 13, 1983. Amendment filed August 28, 1984; effective November 13, 1984. Amendment filed August 11, 2004; effective December 29, 2004. Amendments filed November 12, 2008; effective March 30, 2009. Repeal and new rule filed August 10, 2011; effective January 29, 2012. Emergency rule filed August 18, 2015; effective through February 14, 2016. Amendment filed August 18, 2015; effective November 15, 2015.

#### **0240-02-03-.05 TRAFFIC AND PARKING.**

- (1) General: Institutions governed by the TBR shall adopt institutional policies governing traffic and parking on their respective campuses. The purpose of these policies shall be to facilitate the orderly and efficient flow of traffic on those campuses, to provide a safe atmosphere for both pedestrians and motor vehicle operators, and to provide order with regard to parking within limited space. Institutional policies enacted in compliance with this rule shall be subject to prior review and approval of the TBR. Once adopted, such policies shall be published, at least annually, and, as appropriate, through signage, traffic/parking handbooks, student/faculty handbooks and institutional websites.
- (2) Registration of Automobiles/Permits/Decals: TBR institutions shall adopt policies regarding the registration of vehicles and/or the issuance of decals and/or permits on campus, and/or the alternate use of campus access fees in lieu of registration of individual vehicles for the purpose of effective enforcement of campus traffic and/or parking regulations. Reasonable fees/costs may be assessed in association with the vehicle registration, permit, or decal issuance process. Any fees/costs associated with registration of vehicles or the issuance of permits/decals, together with appropriate information sufficient to justify the fee/cost amount, shall be submitted for review and approval by the TBR prior to implementation at any institution, pursuant to the requirement set forth in TBR policy.
- (3) Parking: TBR institutions shall adopt policies with regard to parking on institution owned, operated, or controlled sites. Those policies shall reflect the physical availability and limitations of parking facilities at institution owned, operated, or controlled sites. TBR institutions are further authorized to adopt appropriate parking zones or designated parking systems for faculty, staff, students, residents of campus housing, visitors, and other appropriate groups. Institutions may also establish a schedule of hours for enforcement for parking regulations at their various campus sites. Reasonable fees/costs may be assessed in association with the issuance of parking decals or passes as set forth in section (2) above. Any fees/costs associated with parking permits/decals, together with appropriate information sufficient to justify the fee/cost amount, shall be submitted for review and approval by the TBR prior to implementation at any institution, pursuant to the requirement set forth in TBR policy.
- (4) Traffic: TBR institutions shall adopt policies with regard to motor and other vehicular traffic on institution owned, operated, or controlled sites. Those policies shall reflect the nature of traffic patterns, roads, and physical limitations of the particular institution owned or controlled site. TBR institutions are further directed to adopt and publish a traffic code reflecting the traffic rules and offenses for that institution's sites. Such violations may include, but are not limited to, all traffic offenses provided under state, county, or municipal ordinance applicable to the locality of each institutional site. Adoption of such policies shall be subject to prior review and

(Rule 0240-02-03-.05, continued)

approval by the TBR. Once adopted or amended all traffic and parking regulations shall be affirmatively communicated to the faculty, staff, and students of the institution as well as published in appropriate websites, handbooks, or manuals.

- (5) Fines/Penalties: TBR institutions shall have the authority to adopt appropriate fines and/or disciplinary sanctions for violations of the traffic and parking regulations established pursuant to sections (3) & (4) above. Fines may be set as determined necessary at each institution, but shall not exceed the amounts provided for by the higher of state law, county, or municipal ordinance for the same offense. Such fines are subject to the prior review and approval of the TBR, pursuant to the requirement set forth in TBR policy. Proposed fines shall be submitted to the TBR together with information sufficient to justify the fine. Such information shall include consideration of state/county/municipal fines for the same offense, fines for the same offense at similarly situated institutions, association to enforcement costs at the institution, and/or the unique traffic/parking considerations at each institution. Once adopted or amended, all fines shall be affirmatively communicated to the faculty, staff, and students of the institution as well as published in appropriate websites, handbooks, or manuals.
- (6) Appeals: Institutions shall establish an appropriate system of due process associated with any traffic/parking codes or fines, consistent with the due process requirements set forth in TBR Systemwide Rule 0240-02-03-.06 below, wherein persons cited for violation of institutional traffic/parking regulations may contest their citations. Institutions are authorized to establish alternative or multiple methods/bodies for hearings and/or for the resolution of such matters.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-101 et seq. and 49-8-203. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 10, 2011; effective January 29, 2012. Amendment filed August 18, 2015; effective November 15, 2015.

#### **0240-02-03-.06 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES.**

- (1) General: Institutions governed by the TBR, in the implementation of TBR policies pertaining to discipline and conduct of students, shall insure the constitutional rights of students by affording a system of constitutionally and legally sound procedures which provide the protection of due process of law. In furtherance of this mandate, all TBR institutions shall enact policies setting forth the disciplinary procedures for the institution. All such policies shall be enacted in compliance with this rule, TBR Policy 3:02:01:00, and applicable state and federal law. All policies adopted pursuant to this rule shall be subject to prior review and approval. Once adopted or amended, all disciplinary procedures shall be affirmatively communicated to the faculty, staff, and students of the institution as well as published in appropriate websites, handbooks, or manuals.
- (2) Contested Case Procedure: All cases which may result in: (a) suspension or expulsion of a student from the institution for disciplinary reasons, or (b) revocation of registration of a student organization, is subject to the contested case provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act (UAPA), T.C.A. §§ 4-5-301 et seq., and shall be processed in accord with the Uniform Contested Case procedures adopted by the Board of Regents, unless the student or organization, after receiving written notice, waives those procedures and elects to have the case disposed of in accord with institutional procedures or waives all right to contest the case under any procedure. These procedures shall be described in the institution's policy.
  - (a) For cases which may result in Interim Involuntary Withdrawal or Suspension, the institution must incorporate the guidelines set forth herein at (6) in its decision-making processes.
- (3) Institutional Procedures: For matters not subject to the requirements of TUAPA, each institution shall include in its policies a description of the procedures applicable at each level

(Rule 0240-02-03-.06, continued)

of a student/organizational misconduct, student housing violation or traffic/parking violation proceeding, including procedures for the initiation, investigation, resolution and/or prosecution of a violation applicable at each level, including appeal(s). This policy shall also set forth minimum requirements for advance notice of charges/violations as well as the time, date, and place for any procedure or hearing.

- (4) Institutional Hearings: For matters not subject to the requirements of TUAPA, institutions shall establish a body or bodies, with authority to hear student/organizational misconduct, student housing violations, or traffic/parking violations. Such body may be constituted as determined by the institution and may consist of one (1) individual or a committee. Authority may be vested in a single entity or in separate bodies.
- (5) Minimum Requirements of Due Process for Institutional Hearings: Institutional hearing bodies and procedures governing discipline in cases of student/organizational misconduct, student housing violations and/or traffic/parking violations may be structured in any manner deemed appropriate given the organizational structure of the individual institution, but shall include the following minimal procedural components:
  - (a) The student shall be advised, in writing, of the breach of regulation(s) of which she/he is charged;
  - (b) The student shall be advised of the time, date, and place of the hearing allowing reasonable time for preparation;
  - (c) The student shall be advised of the following rights applicable at the hearing:
    - (1) The right to present his or her case,
    - (2) The right to be accompanied by an advisor,
    - (3) The right to call witnesses in his or her behalf,
    - (4) The right to confront witnesses against him or her, and
    - (5) The student shall be advised of the method and time limitations for appeal, if any is applicable.

Students subject to any disciplinary sanction are entitled to a due process hearing unless that right is waived by the student after receiving written notice of the available procedures.

- (6) Interim Involuntary Withdrawal or Suspension Hearings: Hearings conducted with regard to interim involuntary withdrawals or suspensions, imposed prior to or pending the outcome of a disciplinary investigation or proceeding shall be conducted consistent with the minimum requirements of due process applicable to the institutional hearing, taking into account the need for a timely hearing. The evidence presented at the hearing shall be limited to that which is relevant to the basis asserted for imposition of the interim involuntary withdrawal or suspension.
  - (a) In determining whether a student should be involuntarily withdrawn or suspended for threatening or disruptive conduct, the institution shall consider the nature, duration, severity, and probability of the threat posed and/or the disruption caused by a student, relying on the best available objective evidence and, if applicable and obtainable, the most current medical evidence.
  - (b) The institution shall also determine whether reasonable modifications of its policies, practices, or procedures could sufficiently mitigate the risk.

(Rule 0240-02-03-.06, continued)

- (c) Absent exigent circumstances creating an imminent risk of harm, the assessment will be made prior to a decision to involuntarily withdraw or suspend based on the threat he or she poses to others.
  - (d) If exigent circumstances warrant the immediate removal of a student from the institution, the student will receive, at a minimum, notice and an initial opportunity to present evidence immediately after being placed on involuntary withdrawal and the opportunity to initiate full due process within thirty (30) days of the removal.
- (7) **Alternative Resolution Procedures:** Institutions are authorized to establish alternative or multiple methods/bodies for hearings and/or for the resolution of disciplinary matters, with the consent of all relevant parties. Alternative resolution methods may include, but are not limited to, mediation, diversion programs, and/or negotiated resolutions.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-101 et seq. and 49-8-203. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 10, 2011; effective January 29, 2012. Emergency rules filed August 18, 2015; effective through February 14, 2016. Amendment filed August 18, 2015; effective November 15, 2015.