**ANTI-HAZING POLICY**

**POLICY**

No member of ANY NEARI organization will engage in hazing of other student. All reported cases of hazing will be thoroughly investigated and infractions addressed according to Massachusetts statutes. All NEARI staff and students who are or may be participating in any NEARI Organization, will receive copies of NEARI’s anti-hazing policy on an annual basis.

Definition: The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections eighteen (18) and nineteen (19), shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conducts shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

**THE LAW**

**Section 17.** “Whoever is principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections eighteen (18) and nineteen (19), shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conducts shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Not withstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.”

**Section 18.** “Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen (17) and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to him/herself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.”

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

Each student group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and

eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post secondary education shall deliver, at least annually before or at the start of enrollment, to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

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

**PROCEDURE**

1. Within two weeks of the start of the school term in September, all NEARI students and staff will sign-off on having received a copy of the Anti-Hazing Policy and Procedure.
2. Any incident of Hazing will be reported immediately to the School Principal.
3. Students and staff will be informed that reports of hazing can be made anonymously.
4. The School Principal will investigate all hazing reports and report his/her findings to the Executive Director within 5 days of receipt of the complaint.
5. Any confirmed case of hazing will be handled according to NEARI’s behavior management procedures and, if appropriate, prosecuted as required by Massachusetts statute.