

President's decision about an allegation of hazing by the Women's Soccer Team

August 28, 2012

Our Director of Athletics received an allegation on August 19, 2012 that hazing may have occurred at a party on August 4, 2012 held by the Women's Soccer Team. The allegation was immediately referred to the office of the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. That office has completed the investigation of the allegation by interviewing each of the student-athletes involved.

The office of the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs has concluded that the team did engage in hazing as defined by the Student Code of Conduct (http://www.humboldt.edu/studentrights/Download/code_of_conduct.pdf) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) (http://hsujacks.com/documents/2012/8/20/NCAA_Hazing_Handbook.pdf?id=757). As a result, I will suspend the first three games of the Women's Soccer Team season. The team will then be allowed to participate in the remaining game schedule already determined for this academic year.

The women's team convened as a group and engaged the new recruits in activities that clearly satisfy the definitions of hazing as defined by the NCAA and our Student Code of Conduct. There is also evidence of misconduct involving alcohol. I am directing that the Office of the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs proceed with their process of disciplining individual students who have violated our Student Code of Conduct. I have also directed that the Athletics Department consider possible additional team sanctions since the entire Women's Soccer Team participated in the event on August 4, 2012. Such sanctions will not include suspension of the entire season for the team.

I deeply regret that this culture of hazing new recruits existed at Humboldt State University. It is our intention to do all we can to change this culture both in athletics and anywhere else it might occur on our campus so that such behavior will not occur in the future.



Rollin C. Richmond
President, Humboldt State University