

**Commission on Student Affairs
Resolution CSA 2007-2008 C
Resolution for Changes to University Policies for Student Life:
Interim Suspension Policy**

Approved by Commission on Student Affairs:	March 13, 2008
First Reading by University Council:	April 7, 2008
Approved by University Council:	April 21, 2008
Approved by the President:	April 21, 2008
Approved by Board of Visitors:	June 20, 2008
Effective Date:	Upon approval by the Board of Visitors

Whereas, the University Judicial System is an educational tool with two main objectives: to hold students accountable for unacceptable behavior, and to modify those behaviors deemed unacceptable by the university; and

Whereas, the University Judicial System strives to address unacceptable behavior in a manner that informs students and guides them toward a greater sense of personal responsibility, and more mature and ethical standards; and

Whereas, the University Policies for Student Life currently gives the Office of Judicial Affairs authority to interim suspend a student in order to protect persons and/or property; and

Whereas, in response to recommendations from Governor Kaine's independent Virginia Tech Review Panel and the President's internal review reports (summer 2007); now, therefore, let it be

Resolved, that **Policy # 8300. - Section III.G. - Interim Suspension Policy** be amended as follows:

The university retains the authority to impose an interim (immediate) suspension if such action is necessary to preserve the safety of persons or property. In this instance, the student will be afforded an interim suspension hearing and the opportunity to show why his/her continued presence on campus does not constitute a threat to himself/herself, others, or property. The interim suspension hearing is separate from a formal judicial hearing. A formal judicial hearing in compliance with University Policies for Student Life will be provided as soon as possible.

Students may be interim (immediately) suspended from the university or selected campus facilities with proper notice. The following steps explain the procedure for imposing an interim suspension:

1. When a situation, as defined above, occurs, the responding university official contacts the Dean of Students or his/her assigned designee to assess the situation. If the situation is sufficiently serious, the Dean of Students, in consultation with the Threat Assessment Team, as appropriate, can determine if an interim suspension hearing is necessary.
2. The interim suspension hearing will be held as quickly as possible and will be presided over, and a decision rendered by, the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee. The student, the responding university official and other witnesses as deemed appropriate by the Dean of Students or the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, will attend the hearing. If the student is unable or unwilling to attend the hearing, depending upon the circumstances, the hearing may

proceed without the student. During the hearing, the student will be given an opportunity to demonstrate why his or her continued presence on campus does not constitute a threat to himself/herself, others, or property. As part of the hearing, the student may be required to submit to an immediate medical/psychological evaluation. The evaluation may include a 24-hour period of observation. The student will be evaluated by the Director of the Cook Counseling Center or his/her designee. Results of this evaluation will be shared with the appropriate university officials. Agreeing to this evaluation does not preclude interim suspension, additional disciplinary action, or a decision to impose a medical withdrawal from the university. If the student agrees to an evaluation, the interim suspension may be delayed until the evaluation is completed.

3. Based on the outcome of the interim suspension hearing and/or the evaluation, the student may be suspended from the university, medically withdrawn, and/or in the sole discretion of the Virginia Tech Chief of Police banned from selected campus facilities until a formal judicial hearing can be convened. If a student is suspended, he or she will receive written notice of this decision by the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee. If the decision is made to impose an interim suspension, the student will be escorted out of the facility and/or off campus by a Virginia Tech Police Officer. The decision of interim suspension will be final. There will be no appeal.
4. The outcome of the interim suspension hearing will be shared with the Office of Judicial Affairs which will schedule, as soon as possible, a formal judicial hearing to determine the final consequences of the initiating inappropriate behavior.