Section 34. Dining Locations and Aggie Bucks

34.1 Dining Locations (Department of Food Services)

34.1.1 The conditions of a meal plan, including the number of times students are allowed to enter the dining center during a meal period, are dependent on the plan purchased and subject to terms as stated in current Food Services literature.

34.1.2 At the beginning of each semester, students who have signed up for a meal plan option will have their meal plans automatically validated if the request has been made through the regular registration process and fees have been paid. Students may buy or upgrade a meal plan with the assistance of the Food Services staff in the Meal Plan Office, located in the Pavilion. Students may also purchase additional meals beyond their current meal plan at the same per meal rate as their existing plan. Refunds follow the University’s schedule for Tuition and Fee Adjustments.

34.1.3 Meal plans are nontransferable from the owner. Lending a student ID card or temporary meal card to another individual for the purpose of obtaining meals is prohibited. The use of another student’s ID card will be considered theft and subject to disciplinary action.

34.1.4 Food and dining equipment should remain in dining locations unless specifically authorized through Department of Food Services’ programs or personnel. Removal of equipment other than that considered disposable will be viewed as theft. In addition, removal of food from dining centers is prohibited.

34.1.5 Announcements made in the dining centers, except Duncan Dining Center, require prior approval of the director of food services.

34.1.6 Students participating in or encouraging disturbances in the dining locations will be subject to disciplinary action. These students will be required to straighten and clean up dining areas in which a disturbance has occurred. Students will be billed for the total cost of replacing items broken, damaged or destroyed as a result of mischievous conduct, carelessness and wanton destruction.

34.1.7 Only paying students and guests are permitted within dining centers except with permission of authorized dining center personnel.

34.1.8 All advertising/soliciting, including table tents, within all Department of Food Services locations is subject to Student Rules, Section 39,
Soliciting on Campus, as limited to recognized campus organizations and university-related events with prior approval of authorized personnel.

Submitted by: Rhonda Kappler, Food Services (Original Submittal for changes)

Justification for Proposed Change:

After extensive discussion in committee meetings, the Rules and Regulations Committee determined that Section 34.1 of the Student Rules is not actually a student rule per se and should not be included in the Rules. Committee Chairman, Dr. David Parrott, and committee member, Polli Satterwhite, met with Rhonda Kappler and Ron Beard of Food Services. Kappler and Beard were in favor of this change and agreed to include this section on their website rather than having it in the Student Rules. A link to the Food Service website will be added to the Student Rules website.

Rules and Regulations Approved 3/25/2002
Section 15 Graduation with Honors

To be eligible for graduation with honors, a student seeking a baccalaureate degree must enroll in and complete a minimum of 75 undergraduate semester hours at Texas A&M University preceding graduation at this institution and have a grade point ratio at this institution equal to or greater than that required for the appropriate category of honors. Course credit received by examination and for graduate level courses is not included in this total, professional level courses (900 level), and courses reserved for graduate credit are excluded from the calculation of the number of hours and the grade point ratio required for graduation with honors. The grade point ratio of all college hours attempted, excluding transfer hours, must equal that required at Texas A&M for the appropriate category of honors.

Submitted By: Ronald G. Douglas, Executive Vice President & Provost on behalf of the Academics Operation Committee.

Justification for Proposed Change:

See attached letter from Mr. Douglas (Attachment A)

Rules and Regulations Approved 2/25/2002
Section 8.4 Special Examinations

An undergraduate student who has completed all the requirements for graduation, both in hours and grade points, except for a passing grade in one course undertaken and failed during his or her last two semesters, may be given, with proper approval, one special examination in that course. Before a student will be considered for a special examination, he or she must have substantially completed the work of the course. **A request for such special examination should be initiated by the student through the head of the department offering the course and the dean of the student’s college, and submitted to the registrar for approval** after the close of the semester or summer term. No special examination shall be given without the approval of both the head of the department in which the course was offered and the dean of the student’s college.

Submitted by: Don Carter, Office of Admissions and Records

Justification for Proposed Change:

The existing wording can cause a student to initiate the request for special examination with the registrar before consulting the head of the department offering the course and/or his or her academic dean.

Rules and Regulations Approved 2/25/2002
Section 10. Grading

10.11 With the exception of KINE 199 and KINE 198, students must register for courses on a S/U basis during official registration periods. They shall not be permitted to change the basis on which their grades will be recorded on their official transcripts, except for unusual circumstances and with the approval of the student’s academic dean.

Students registered for KINE 199 and KINE 198, wishing to change the grade type from a graded course to S/U or from S/U to a graded course, may do so on BONFIRE screen 815. All requests for KINE 199 and KINE 198 changes must be accomplished on or before the Q-drop deadline for the fall, spring or summer semester.

Submitted by: Don Carter, Office of Admissions and Records

Justification for Proposed Change:

At the time this rule was originally written, KINE 198 did not exist. KINE 198 is analogous to KINE 199 in terms of changing grade type.

Rules and Regulations Approved 2/25/2002
Section 26. Rights in Student Conduct Proceedings

26.1.5 Right to have a personal advisor/counselor present during the student conduct proceedings. A personal advisor or counselor or an attorney may appear at an administrative hearing with the accused student to provide advice, but may not represent the accused student or directly question or cross-examine witnesses, except in a case where the university is represented by an attorney.

Submitted by: David Kesseler, Department of Student Life – SCRS

Justification for Proposed Change:

The previous wording seemed to provide guidance only for an attorney. Because personal advisors/counselor are frequently parents or friends of the accused student, not just attorneys, they do not always understand their role. This proposed revision is simply a clarification so that the statement applies to anyone acting as a personal advisor/counselor during an administrative hearing.

Rules and Regulations Approved 2/25/2002
Appendix XII. Sexual Assault

I. Introduction
Sexual assault is a felony under the criminal laws of the State of Texas and will not be tolerated at Texas A&M University. Any such act committed by an A&M student is a violation of University Student Rules and subject to disciplinary action.

Texas A&M University is committed to providing an educational atmosphere in which students can achieve their goals and maximum potential. When students experience sexual assault, their sense of safety and trust is violated. This violation can seriously interfere with their lives and educational goals. Thus, the University is committed to establishing rules and procedures that are responsive to victims of sexual assault. (See Sexual Violence Response Protocol)

II. Definitions
According to Texas A&M University Student Rules, sexual assault is defined as:

- the oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by a sexual organ of another or anal/vaginal penetration by any means against the victim’s will or without his/her consent. An individual who is mentally incapacitated, unconscious, or unaware that the sexual assault is occurring is considered unable to give consent. The type of force employed may involve physical violence or force, coercion, intentional impairment of an individual’s ability to appraise the situation through the administering of any substance, or threat of harm to the victim.

According to Texas A&M University Student Rules, sexual abuse is defined as:

Attempting or making sexual contact, including but not limited to inappropriate touching or fondling, with another against the person’s will or in circumstances where the person is physically, mentally, or legally unable to give consent.

In both cases, the same definition applies whether the perpetrator is a stranger or an acquaintance or a group of individuals. Date or acquaintance rape is the sexual assault or sexual abuse of an individual by someone the individual knows. Group or gang rape is the sexual assault or sexual abuse of an individual by multiple perpetrators.

III. Response Protocol
If a sexual assault has “just” occurred, the following response protocol should be used:

• Make sure the student is safe. Call the police immediately (911, 9-911 on campus) if the perpetrator might still be in the area.
- Assist in preserving evidence. Tell the student NOT to change clothes, shower, douche, comb hair, brush teeth, eat or drink, and if possible not to urinate. Tell the student not to disturb the crime scene and to take a change of clothes to the hospital.

- Encourage a medical evaluation. Whether or not the student plans to press charges, a medical evaluation is needed. There may be hidden injuries of which the student is not aware.

- Arrange psychological support for the student. Get a friend of the student, a counselor, or a victim’s advocate to accompany the student through medical and legal procedures.

- Encourage legal (criminal and/or civil charges) and/or University disciplinary options.

In assisting a survivor of sexual assault, it is important to remember the following:

- It is very important that you allow the student to control the process.

- It is always the survivor’s choice as to whether or not they wish to report sexual assault.

- Medical evidence should be collected within 48 hours if possible.

- If the student is willing to report the sexual assault to the police, it is critical that the police are contacted as soon as possible so that evidence can be preserved.

- The survivor has the option of requesting a concealed identity or pseudonym during the police investigation.

Whether or not the student wants to involve the police or the University disciplinary process, medical examination is essential. A physical examination is necessary to take care of obvious and/or hidden physical injuries and will provide the opportunity to discuss with a physician potential communicable disease or pregnancy concerns. Rape kit examinations are available through St. Joseph’s Regional Health Center, College Station Medical Center and Physicians Centre. Physical examinations are also available through Student Health Services and/or through the student’s regular physician.

IV. Legal and Judicial Options

The survivor of an attempted or completed sexual assault or incidence of sexual abuse may choose to pursue the following legal and/or judicial options:
Seek Criminal Prosecution
Because in Texas, once a report to police is made, the decision to prosecute lies with the county or district attorney, not the victim. Reporting a sexual assault or attempted sexual assault to the police begins the legal process to prosecution. The sooner a sexual assault or attempted sexual assault is reported to the police, the more likely valuable evidence can be collected.

Pursue Charges Through the University Judicial Process
Rape is viewed by University officials as a very serious offense and can result in a range of sanctions that may include removal from the University. Disciplinary action against students committing sexual assault is administered by the Student Conflict Resolution Services (847-7272). Survivors have the option to pursue University disciplinary action against their assailant if the assailant is also a student at Texas A&M University.

Survivors are under no obligation to pursue disciplinary action by contacting this office. During the initial consultation, the student affairs professional will clarify the disciplinary process and explain the options available to the survivor, as well as review the incident. Crisis counselors or other support persons are welcome and encouraged to accompany the survivor.

File a Civil Suit
Survivors can consult an attorney about initiating a suit in civil court for damages against the assailant for the tort of battery. The purpose of a civil suit is to compensate the survivor for the wrong done to her/him. Civil action may be brought against the assailant regardless of whether criminal charges are pursued.

V. Victim/Survivor Rights
When an administrative hearing is held through Texas A&M University’s Student Conflict Resolution Services, a victim/survivor has specific rights as outlined in section 26.2 of the Texas A&M University Student Rules.

VI. Services Available to Students
Survivors of sexual assault have a variety of campus and community resources available to them. These resources include but are not limited to the following:

Gender Issues Education Services (Department of Student Life)
• Support in crisis and through the recovery process.

• Advocacy through the judicial, medical and counseling process.
• Assistance with contacting professors, with residence hall arrangements (for victims living on campus), with referrals, and with the disciplinary process.

• Educational programs and individual consultation.

Student Counseling Service
• 24-hour emergency peer support by phone or professional counseling for currently enrolled students.

• Individual, couples, and/or group counseling.

HelpLine 845-2700
• 24-hour hotline

Brazos County Rape Crisis Center
• 24-hour emergency hotline and face-to-face counseling.

• Advocacy and support throughout medical and/or legal procedures.

• Support for survivors and their friends and family.

• Confidential, web-based counseling http://www.rapecrisis.txcyber.com

Proposed action is to remove Appendix XII from the Student Rules. In addition, any and all links in the Student Rules currently leading to Appendix XII would be changed to link to the Sexual Violence Response Protocol web page at http://studentlife.tamu.edu/gies/svrp.htm.

Submitted by: Jacquie Vargas, Department of Student Life, Central Office

Justification for Change:

In accordance with federal law, the Sexual Violence Response Protocol is annually distributed to all university employees and is available to anyone at the Protocol web site, which is consistently maintained by the Department of Student Life Office of Gender Issues Education. The information in Appendix XII is the text of the Sexual Violence Response Protocol; therefore, it is unnecessary and inefficient to attempt to maintain the most current information in both locations. It is best and more prudent to have a link to the university’s source information rather than attempting to duplicate information, which can lead to discrepancies or confusion.

Rules and Regulations Approved 3/25/2002
Section 20. Scholastic Dishonesty

New Rule:

20.1.7 Change Regulation Citation: Falsification of Information

Changing information on tests, quizzes, examinations, reports, or any other material that has been graded and resubmitting it as original for the purpose of improving the grade on that material.

Submitted by: Ray James, Civil Engineering

Justification for Proposed Change:

This addition is needed to clarify the examples in the categories to explicitly prohibit students from adding or changing answers submitted on an examination, etc., after the examination is returned to the student and then asking the instructor to regrade the material.

Rules and Regulations Approved 3/25/2002
Section 24. Student Conduct Code

24.1.3 the term “university official” means any administrator, instructor, staff member (including, but not limited to, graduate assistants, graduate/assistant/hall director, resident advisor, and commanding officer) and other authorized individuals of the university.

Submitted by: Darby Roberts, Student Life Studies

Justification for Change:

It is unclear to some Corps students who falls into a university official position as opposed to “chain of command”.

Rules and Regulations Approved 4/15/2002
Section 7. Attendance

Introduction:
The university views class attendance as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments. Instructors are expected to give adequate notice of the dates on which major tests will be given and assignments will be due. **This information should be provided on the course syllabus, which should be distributed at the first class meeting.** Graduate students are expected to attend all examinations required by departments or advisory committees as scheduled formally.

Submitted by: Faculty Senate/Academic Affairs Committee

Justification for Proposed Changes:
Change approved by Academic Affairs Committee 6/15/01.

Rules and Regulations Approved 4/15/2002