TO: Academic Deans and Department Heads

FROM: John L. Crain, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Student Behavior in the Classroom

Southeastern takes great pride in providing a caring environment that fosters close faculty-student interaction. Because of the frequent and direct nature of classroom interaction between our faculty and students, faculty are uniquely well positioned to model professional behavior for our students. This is never more true than when classroom disruptions occur.

Faculty have the right, and the obligation, to maintain proper classroom decorum which is essential to maintaining a viable learning environment. Although classroom disruptions are infrequent, when they occur it is important for faculty to respond in a professional and appropriate manner.

This past semester there were several incidents of disruptive student behavior in the classroom. As a result, some of you have raised questions about the appropriate procedures for handling such situations.

After discussions with the Deans' Council, Council of Department Heads, University attorneys and faculty leaders, the following procedure will constitute the official expectation of how these matters should be handled. Please share this information with your faculty.

Whenever a student's behavior in class is deemed by the instructor to be disruptive, the student should be promptly informed of such and requested to cease the behavior. Notification and request may occur in class or another time and place deemed appropriate by the faculty member (e.g., the faculty member's office). At this time, the student also should be notified that failure to comply with the faculty member's request may result in the student being subject to disciplinary action by the Office of Judicial Affairs under the Student Code of Conduct.

If the student does not cease the disruptive behavior, the student may be dismissed from class. The student may attend subsequent classes unless the disruptive behavior persists. If the student refuses the faculty member's request to cease disruptive behavior, the University Police may be requested to remove the student. Faculty also should report such incidents of disruptive behavior to the Office of Judicial Affairs and their department head when the student fails to comply with the request to cease this behavior.

The University Police should be involved only after all reasonable classroom management efforts have failed. However, if at any time a faculty member believes that a student poses a physical threat, the University Police should be contacted immediately at extension 2222.

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policies\disruptive behavior