

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF  
PUBLIC ORDER AT THE COLLEGE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

(Adopted by the Board of Trustees on February 18, 1973)

The College of the Virgin Islands is a public, academic enterprise incorporated as an instrumentality of the Government of the Virgin Islands. Final responsibility for the governance of the College is vested in the Board of Trustees. The procedures and statements which follow are those which the Board has approved and which they have instructed the President and the Provost and Dean of the College to institute in the event that the programs of the College are disrupted by a person or persons with or without membership of the College. They are published for the information of the College and all who come to the College campuses on St. Thomas or St. Croix

- I. While vigorously defending the right and practice of responsible dissent on or off campus, and while holding as one of its aims the institution of rational change, and having established a variety of communication channels for this purpose, the College will not tolerate behavior which has the effect of disrupting the educational and related administrative functioning of the institution, its faculty, staff and students.

Behavior shall be considered disruptive of the College's function when it:

- a. blocks ingress and egress from College facilities, be they buildings, classrooms, offices, or more general areas for activities,

- b. renders such facilities unusable through obstruction, destruction or harassment,
- c. prevents any member of the College community or any other person properly present from participating in his or her normal activities on the campus,
- d. creates a riot or threatens so to do, or
- e. in any way willfully and substantially impedes the College's accepted purposes.

II. The President and/or the Provost and Dean of the College or in their absence another person or persons specifically designated by the President for the purpose shall be empowered to declare when behavior, in any particular case, shall be considered disruptive, requiring the application of these Rules and Regulations.

III. In the event it has been determined, as provided for in II above, that disruptive behavior is taking place, the following procedures will be implemented:

- a. As a matter of first priority, all participants in such disruptive behavior shall be informed (or a reasonable attempt shall be made to inform them) that they are considered to be in violation of College rules and regulations as defined in I, above. They shall, at the same time, be asked (or a reasonable attempt shall be made to ask them) to cease their disruptive behavior within a specified period of time; and they shall be told (or a reasonable attempt shall be made to tell

them) in brief form what the consequences of refusal will be.

- b. On failure to respond to the above actions within the specified period, one of the persons referred to under II above may invoke the temporary suspension of any College of the Virgin Islands student involved and/or (a) make application for a court order requiring the removal of all participants, and/or (b) take such other disciplinary or legal action against those involved as shall seem advisable to bring the disruptive actions to an immediate end. To the extent practicable, announcement of this fact shall be made to all participants together with the specification of a further brief interval at the end of which action shall be taken to bring about their removal or the cessation of their disruptive behavior.
- c. If after the elapse of the interval referred to in the sentence immediately above compliance has not taken place, one of the persons referred to under II above may request the removal of the offenders by officers of the law.
- d. Persons resisting removal by authorized officers of the law may be subject to arrest by officers of the law on those grounds or on other legal grounds which are applicable.

Students of the College so involved may have their case or cases referred for hearing by a hearing officer or officers appointed by the President and/or the Provost and Dean of the College with the understanding that the hearing may result in a decision to exonerate the student or students involved, to continue the suspension or suspensions, to dismiss those involved or to take other appropriate disciplinary action.

- IV. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to limit or impair the right of one of the persons referred to under II above, in the event of a grave emergency, to request the immediate assistance of local law enforcement or fire prevention agencies, and to take such other action as may be deemed necessary.
- V. These Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order at the College of the Virgin Islands have been adopted on an interim basis by the Board of Trustees. Further consideration will be given to these rules and regulations after an opportunity has been presented by the President to groups within the College community to review these rules and regulations and to comment on them.