FACULTY GUIDE FOR DISRUPTIVE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM

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21st ANNUAL LAW & HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE
Clearwater Beach, Florida
February 10 - 12, 2000
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IN THE CLASSROOM

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This guide will provide information to reduce the likelihood of disruptive student
behavior becoming an unmanageable issue in your classroom.

Disruptive students in the classroom is not a new challenge for college and university
faculty members, however, it is rapidly becoming a critical challenge facing faculty in
the 21st century. The following list of options are presented as suggestions and
recommendations that any faculty member might take advantage of when meeting this
particular challenge.

Encourage Good Classroom Behavior

- Prepare your students, preferably in writing and at the first meeting(s) of the class,
about your expectations for student behavior. Let students know exactly what you
will not tolerate in regards to disruptive behavior in your class.

- If possible, first warn your students in case they are not aware of their disruptive
actions, such as not allowing you to proceed with your lecture in the manner you
have chosen. Challenging the instructor to a personal debate and totally stifling
classroom participation. The I'm smarter than you even if you are the instructor
debate.

- Do not allow students to threaten their classmates or you without challenging this
behavior and notify the student of this in writing along with the department chair
and judicial officer. This goes unreported far too often until a student attacks
someone physically then all of these other disruptive threats of violence are brought up for discussion and review. Everyone thinks someone else will address this matter, often it never gets the attention it deserves in its early stages.

- Be aware of the written policy for removing a disruptive student from your class and be willing to use it when necessary. Remember the other students in your class have rights too. If your college or university does not have such a policy, encourage them to write one.

- Understand the role of campus security officers in removing disruptive students from your class where violence is suggested or implied as the only way a violator is willing to leave the premises.

- Never attempt to physically remove a disruptive student from the classroom, call Campus Security.

- Always remember exactly who is in charge of the classroom, you the instructor, which is one reason the other students in the class are looking to you for leadership when disruptive students decide to exert themselves in a negative manner.

- And finally, when possible, always try and talk to the disruptive student(s) privately about your expectations for the class in general and them in particular.