



STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Kurt J. Keppler
Vice President for Student Affairs

The Division of Student Affairs is charged with responsibility for student life outside the classroom and includes a number of areas: cooperative education, counseling, alcohol and other drug education, judicial affairs, financial aid, housing, health services, orientation, student employment, career services, Greek life, event services, campus recreation, student organizations, student publications, student government, the University Union, University Center, student life, and testing. It is the division's philosophy that students' non-academic experiences are important to both their formal education and their personal development.

The Vice President for Student Affairs coordinates the activities within the Division of Student Affairs. His office is available to serve the needs of students as well as parents, alumni, faculty, and staff with student concerns. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs is located in 1150 Nevins Hall. Telephone: 229-333-5359. Valdosta State University is committed to the idea that total education involves more than academic pursuit. More information is available at <www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/>.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

The Office of the Dean of Students is dedicated to student development both inside and outside the classroom. The departmental goal is to provide quality programs, services and facilities that will enhance the educational and personal experiences of the VSU students. The office is located on the first floor of the University Union.

The Dean of Students is responsible for the following departments within the Division of Student Affairs: Campus Recreation, Event Services, Judicial Affairs, Orientation and Leadership Development, and Student Life. Campus recreation provides year-round leisure opportunities and opened the new Student Recreation Center in the fall of 2002. All campus facilities that are not associated with academic classes are scheduled by Events Services. Judicial Affairs processes all student disciplinary issues and Code of Conduct violations. Orientation coordinates programs and services for all incoming first year students and transfer students. Leadership Development offers students a wide variety of opportunities to get involved as a campus leader through programs such as "Emerging, Existing, and Experienced Leaders" (EEE). Student Life provides campus-wide programs and activities such as Homecoming, Community Service, and the Happening. Within the Office of Student Life is Greek Life, which is responsible for the supervision of 22 nationally recognized fraternities and sororities.

STUDENT LIFE

University Union

The Office of Student Life is located in the University Union, offering a wide variety of extracurricular programs and services in which students are urged to participate. Telephone 229-333-5674.

University Union houses conference rooms, Campus Mail Service, and the Loop

Pizza Grill. Also located in the Union are offices for the Division of Student Affairs, Greek Life, Orientation and Student Leadership Development, Judicial Affairs, the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Campus Activities Board (CAB). The SGA is the student voice and addresses issues and concerns of the student population. The CAB is responsible for providing educational and social programs for the students.

Event Services

Event Services, located in the north end of the University Center, coordinates all facility reservations and rentals for VSU organizations and non-affiliated organizations. Representatives from student organizations can make reservations for only their organization. Reservations must be made two weeks in advance of the event. There are many requests for room reservations, so organizations are encouraged to make reservations as early as possible.

Not only are conference rooms and classrooms free of charge to VSU organizations, also available are tents, pools, gyms, sporting fields, a super cooker, and outdoor venues, reserved in the same way as rooms, above. For more information call 229-333-5998.

University Center

Event Services also oversees the north end of the University Center (UC) and the Visitors' Information Plaza. The UC-North has a game room, food court, study and TV rooms, an ATM machine, and a computer lab. The information desk, located in the main lobby provides lost and found service, telephone for local calls, and a Building Manager for assistance with UC audio-visual equipment and meeting rooms. The UC- North also houses a theatre, two meeting rooms, and a large conference room or ballroom. For more information call 229-259-2510 or 229-259-2511.

Visitors' Information Plaza

The Visitors' Information Plaza (VIP) is located at the main entrance of the University Center. Material on VSU and the community is stored here for anyone who needs information about Valdosta or VSU. Campus tours are coordinated also by VIP assistants. Tours are given for school children and any other group of 15 or more. Planetarium visits and art gallery tours are also coordinated through the VIP. For more information call 229-333-5800 or 229-293-6100.

Clubs and Organizations

There is a diversity of clubs and student organizations at the University, including nine national sororities, ten national fraternities, various service organizations, honor societies, and department clubs. All students are members of the Student Government Association (SGA). The purpose of this organization is to work for the best interests of the students; cooperate with the VSU administration, faculty, and staff in all matters of common interest to the University; approve and coordinate campus student organizations, and provide a means of communication between the students and all areas of their university. Representatives are elected in annual campus elections and meet weekly.

Campus Ministry Organizations

The following recognized campus religious organizations participate in providing a variety of programming for VSU students. They are: the Adventist Christian Fellowship– Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Baptist Student Center, Believers Out Uniting Testimonies In Truth, Campus Outreach, the Christian Student Center–Church of Christ, Evangelistic Outreach Ministries, the Newman Center– St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, the Presbyterian Student Center–First Presbyterian Church, the United Methodist Student Center, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Team Jesus, and the Canterbury Club–Christ Episcopal Church.

Student Publications

The University also provides opportunities for experience in journalism through The Spectator, the campus newspaper, and other student publications, which provide a forum for presenting current issues and also generate spirit within the student body.

CAMPUS RECREATION

The Department of Campus Recreation provides students, faculty, staff, and members of the campus community the opportunity to enjoy lifelong activities while enhancing their overall well-being by offering a variety of intramural sports, outdoor activities, sport club activities, and fitness and wellness activities. These activities are open to all students who register for four (4) or more academic hours OR have at least one (1) hour and have paid their activity fees.

The new Student Recreation Center on Sustella Avenue provides the VSU community with modern recreational options and equipment. The new center has three basketball/multi-purpose courts, three racquetball courts, a large multipurpose aerobics room, a climbing wall, an indoor pool, an indoor walking track, and an extremely spacious cardiovascular and fitness room.

The Intramural Sports Program is designed to provide an opportunity for all students, faculty, and staff to participate in organized recreational competition. Structured leagues and tournaments are offered in a diverse array of sporting activities such as: flag football, softball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, racquetball, and ultimate frisbee. The Intramural Sports Program offers the students, faculty, and staff at VSU over 30 different activities to participate in during the academic year. Tel. 229-333-5898.

The Sport Club and Outdoors Programs are constantly growing to meet the needs of a diverse campus population. VSU currently has a Men's Soccer and Volleyball Club, as well as the newly formed Sailing Club. Outdoor trips such as horseback riding, kayaking, and canoeing are offered through out the year.

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Fine arts activities in each department of the College are open to participation by all students. These include:

The Wind Ensemble and Concert Band are VSU's premiere wind/percussion ensembles and are open to all students by audition. Each ensemble presents several concerts each year with a repertoire ranging from baroque to contemporary for chamber ensembles and full symphonic band.

The Blazin' Brigade Marching Band is one of the largest and most spirited student

organizations on campus. In addition to performing at Blazer football games, the Brigade is often invited to perform for professional football games and in exhibition at some of the most prestigious high school marching festivals in the South. The band is open to all woodwind, brass, and percussion players without audition; auditions for color guard, dance line and majorettes are held each spring and summer.

The University Community Band offers students and members of the community with limited time an opportunity to perform the best in band literature. Rehearsing just once a week, the band is scheduled with the non-music major in mind and is open to all qualified musicians without audition.

The Jazz Ensemble is the principal ensemble for jazz performance majors and others by audition. The group performs various styles of big band jazz including swing, bop, Latin rock, funk, and fusion.

The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra is a professional orchestra-in-residence at VSU and includes a student component in its membership. All qualified students are eligible through audition. The orchestra annually presents a subscription season of four concerts, a youth concert series, regional performances, and special concerts for the community.

The 90-100 voice Concert Choir is open to all students without audition and performs 3-4 major concerts each year as well as a spring tour. The Chamber Singers is a 24-voice ensemble open to all university students by audition.

The Spotlighters is VSU's vocal jazz ensemble. This 12-voice group is open to all students by audition.

VSU Theatre presents seven full-scale theatrical productions each year including period drama, musical theatre, theatre for youth, dance concerts, chamber theatre, original plays, and recent important works from the world of theatre. Participation in all aspects of VSU Theatre is open to all students.

The Department of Art Gallery, located on the first floor of the Fine Arts Building, presents an ambitious program of eight-nine exhibitions each academic year. Among the exhibits are works by artists of national and international rank, group exhibitions, a national juried show, Valdosta Works On Paper, several student shows, and the annual art faculty exhibition. Openings and receptions are generally held for each exhibit; all university students are invited to attend the openings, meet the artists when they are present, and view the exhibitions during the scheduled hours of the gallery. Many students find the gallery a stimulating and exciting place to learn about art and its representation of life.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Valdosta State University offers students the opportunity to integrate their classroom instruction with practical work experience as part of their academic program. The University works with local, state, and national agencies and employers to give students an opportunity to complement their academic and vocational interests and to gain valuable experience in their chosen fields prior to graduation while also earning an income for their educational expenses. Students also develop professional work habits and can make valuable career contacts.

The co-op program is offered as an option for students. In order to be eligible,

students must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours and be in good academic standing. A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required. Qualified freshmen who have completed an approved high school work-based learning program may be eligible for early admission to the VSU Cooperative Education Program. Students may work on a full-time basis during alternate semesters, a part-time continuous basis, or during a one-semester traineeship. Opportunities exist to earn academic credit as part of the co-op program. Interested students are encouraged to apply as early as possible in their university career to enhance the prospects of placement in the best possible position. The Co-op Office is located in Powell Hall West, first floor. Telephone 229-333-7172. The Web site is <<http://coop.valdosta.edu>>.

CAREER SERVICES

Valdosta State University understands the special needs that university students have in determining their career goals. The Career Services Office is available to assist VSU students in choosing their major programs of study and career objectives and in obtaining satisfactory employment upon graduation.

Individual career counseling is available for students who wish to explore how their abilities, values, and interests match particular career fields. Also, group workshops and seminars on career-related topics are offered each semester.

Students may utilize the varied resources that are in the Career Library: printed career materials, audio and video tape descriptions of occupational opportunities, and computer-assisted career exploration programs.

Various career-oriented workshops are offered each semester. Job vacancy listings of interest to seniors and graduate students are posted. On-campus interviews are scheduled with employers interested in interviewing students and alumni for professional employment. Seniors are encouraged to register with the office the first semester of their senior year so that the office can best assist in their employment search.

The Career Services Office is located on the second floor of Powell Hall-West. Telephone 229-333-5942 or 229-333-5414. <www.valdosta.edu/career>.

COUNSELING CENTER

In an effort to enhance personal growth and development, the Counseling Center offers a variety of services to all students, prospective students, staff, and faculty at VSU free of charge. Professionally trained counselors are available to assist with personal, social, or educational concerns. The Counseling Center offers an atmosphere in which individuals may discuss their problems with the assurance that all counseling information will remain confidential.

Individual counseling is available for those who wish to discuss and explore their thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and lifestyles. In addition, group counseling provides an opportunity for individuals to grow in their communication, social, and interpersonal skills with others who have similar goals and interests. The Center also provides consultation to staff and faculty in addition to offering outreach programs to various target groups on campus, in residence halls, and in the community.

The Counseling Center is accredited by the International Association of Counsel-

ing Services, Inc. It is located in Powell Hall East, and appointments may be made in person or by calling 229-333-5940. When necessary, referrals will be made on campus or in the community so that all available resources are utilized.

OFFICE OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG EDUCATION

The Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Education began in the Fall of 1996. VSU acknowledges the fact that alcohol and other drugs can have a significant impact on the university community. We are taking a proactive stance in educating students on issues related to alcohol misuse and drug use, preventing students from developing substance abuse problems, and providing referrals for those who become chemically dependent. Through a variety of services, the Office of AOD Education is helping VSU affirm itself as an institution that provides a safe and healthy environment for students to receive a quality education. The following services are available:

Assessment and Referral. If you have a problem with alcohol or other drugs, you can obtain an assessment, at no cost, to determine the extent of the substance abuse problem. Upon completion of the assessment, a referral to an appropriate agency will be made. It is up to the individual to follow through on the referral. All phases of this process are voluntary. The Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Education is located in Powell Hall East, second floor. The telephone number is 229 259-5111, and the Web site is <www.valdosta.edu/aode>.

KARMA (Knowledge, Awareness, Respect, Maturity, & Achievement)

The Peer Education Program. Students are trained as Peer Educators to give presentations in classes, residence halls, Greek organizations, and to other campus groups as requested. Topics of discussion include alcohol abuse, drug use, how to help a friend with an alcohol or other drug problem, self-esteem, eating disorders, sexual assault, HIV/AIDS, and date rape drugs.

Natural High. In collaboration with the Offices of Housing and Residence Life and Campus Recreation, Natural High provides activities for students on weekdays and at times of high stress. All activities are alcohol-free and provide students with a safe environment in which to have fun. Activities include dances, midnight bowling, skate nights, bingo, and others as decided by the students on the advisory council. All Natural High events are open to all students.

National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. The Office of AOD Education provides a week long event educating students on issues related to alcohol. Throughout the week, students have opportunities to attend lectures, workshops, and other events designed to teach college students the risks involved in high risk drinking behavior. The week culminates with an alcohol awareness fair which usually draws hundreds of students and community members.

OFFICE OF TESTING

Numerous standardized tests are administered by the Office of Testing to assist students with their testing requirements. The Valdosta State University Office of Testing is responsible for the many tests given in specific areas to entering students for the

purposes of admission and placement, to undergraduate students for proficiency, to teacher education majors for certification, and to graduate students for admission to specialized programs. Testing programs designed for students to earn college credit hours by examinations are also available. As a designated national test center, the Office administers testing programs for the Educational Testing Service, The Psychological Corporation, the Law School Admissions Services, The American College Testing Program, the State of Georgia, and the University System of Georgia, as well as for other educational and governmental agencies.

The yearly testing calendar offers 17 testing programs with many general and specialized components. Beyond the regular group testing dates, individual test administrations are also given on weekly/monthly basis. All tests are administered by the paper and pencil method except the COMPASS and CLEP, which are in a computerized format.

Prospective registrants should check with the appropriate offices at VSU to determine the required tests needed for admission to a specific discipline and the deadline for test score submission.

The Office of Testing is located in Powell Hall-West, First Floor. You may contact us by telephone at 229-245-3878 or by the World Wide Web site: < www.valdosta.edu/testing/ >.

Some tests available to entering students are the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I & II), American College Testing Program (ACT), and the Computer-Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS). Other tests for undergraduates include the Regents' Testing Program (RTP), the Professional Assessments for Beginning Teachers Series (PRAXIS), the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), and the Independent Study Examinations (ISE). Some tests required for graduate admissions include the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)–Subject, the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), and the Miller Analogies Test (MAT)

Assessment and certification examinations are also administered for other educational and governmental institutions. Applications are also available for the following testing programs: Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), Allied Health Professions Admission Test (AHPAT), Veterinary College Admission Test (VCAT), Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT), and Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

VETERANSAFFAIRS

The Veterans Affairs Office is part of the Office Financial Aid. A full-time counselor assists all veterans in completing applications for benefits, making adjustments in payments, providing tutorial assistance, updating enrollment certifications, and with other services to assist veterans with their education. Veterans enrolled in physical education courses can be certified to the Veterans Administration for VA benefits when the courses will be credited toward the completion of their approved educational program. It must be documented that credit cannot be granted for the courses based upon prior military training or experience. Veterans should refer any problems to the Veterans Office for assistance. Telephone 229-333-5935.

JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

The Judicial Affairs Office is responsible for the student disciplinary process on campus. The office is located in the University Union. Telephone 229-333-5941. The office assists students, staff, and faculty in the determination of the most appropriate disciplinary measures needed regarding alleged violations of the VSU Student Handbook's Student Code of Ethics. The office's primary mission is to redirect student behavior toward the ultimate goal of the university, the successful completion of degree requirements and productive participation in today's society. <www.valdosta.edu/judicial/>.

HEALTH SERVICE

The ultimate objective of any student health service is to maintain a state of optimum health, both physical and emotional, among the student body and to educate each student to proper attitudes and habits regarding personal and community health. The University Health Service provides health care for students in a six-bed health facility under the supervision of the university physician, a physician's assistant, and registered nurses. The physician and physician's assistant may be seen by appointment only Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. when school is in session. A VSU ID card is required. Although the Farber Health Center is equipped to handle most illnesses, major illnesses and surgical treatment usually require students to be returned home, or in the case of an emergency, to be taken to South Georgia Medical Center, located a few blocks from the campus. This and other referrals to private medical personnel will be at the students' expense. <<http://services.valdosta.edu/health.html>>.

It is necessary for all students to complete a medical history and immunization questionnaire. These health forms become a part of the University Health Service records. Any other pertinent information should be furnished by the student's family physician.

All new students are required to provide evidence of inoculation for mumps, measles, and rubella. The University Health Service recommends additional inoculations for diphtheria, tetanus, polio, influenza, meningitis, and chicken pox.

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

Valdosta State University provides for both men and women well constructed residence halls that are air-conditioned and comfortably furnished. The lobby and activities room in each residence hall are furnished with cable television, an ice machine, and vending machines. All rooms have telephone service, cable, and the capacity for wireless internet access.

All rooms are double occupancy. Students' rooms are furnished with single beds, desks, mirrors, chests of drawers, chairs, and closet space. Residents may bring other furnishings including pillows, study lamps, bedspreads and linens, curtains, rugs or carpet, bookshelves, radios, stereos, television sets, plants and posters.

Specially equipped facilities for students with disabilities are available. Students requesting modified housing due to a disability must register with the Special Services Program. For student convenience, the campus has laundry facilities in most of the residence halls, and bicycle racks are located throughout the residence hall areas.

Each residence hall is staffed by a Residence Hall Director, who is assisted by Resident Assistants, students selected on the basis of leadership, scholarship, and their willingness to serve their fellow students. Residence hall programs provide opportunities for self-government and social and cultural experiences and help with study habits and counseling on personal, academic, and social concerns.

Freshmen students are strongly encouraged to live on campus, if housing is available, in order that the University may provide a structured, well-rounded, educational experience.

Students are given an opportunity to state their preference of residence halls at the time they apply for university housing, and every effort is made to honor this request.

It is the students' responsibility to keep their rooms in order. Periodic cleaning of the floors, blinds, and fixtures is required. In compliance with the regulations of the Board of Regents, Valdosta State University reserves the right to make inspections of all rooms as often as deemed necessary for the purpose of maintaining standards of sanitation, safety, and general maintenance.

Individual students are responsible for damage which occurs in their rooms. If damage is noted in such areas as lounges and hallways, and no individual assumes responsibility, all students living in that residence hall are held collectively responsible.

Students are given a key to their room. There is no deposit, but if the key is lost there is a \$25 replacement charge. The school recommends to all students to keep their room locked. Residence Halls are locked 24 hours a day, and guests must be admitted by the resident they are visiting.

Housing applications cannot be made until a student has been formally accepted by Valdosta State University. A housing contract will be sent to students after their official acceptance to the University.

An application fee is required of all students at the time they apply for campus housing. All students are also required to pay a reservation fee of \$300 by the deadlines established in the Housing Contract to reserve a room in the residence halls. The housing contract outlines conditions under which refunds may be made. All students applying for campus housing will be required to contract for housing for the academic year.

Apartments are available on a limited basis to students who meet the specific requirements. All students living in university apartments must be either (a) sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate students, (b) at least 19 years of age, or (c) married. One bedroom and efficiency apartments are available. All utilities are furnished, and telephone hookup is available. Valdosta State University maintains a list of available off-campus housing in the Office of Residence Life. This information is available upon request. The Office of Housing and Residence Life is located in Powell Hall East. Telephone 229-333-5920. For additional information on Housing and Residence Life at Valdosta State, see the Web page at < <http://services/valdosta.edu/housing.html> >.

REGULATIONS

General Expectations

Inasmuch as Valdosta State University is an institution committed to the quest for knowledge, truth, and wisdom, all students are expected:

- to examine critically and otherwise to evaluate themselves, their knowledge, and their society;
- to commit themselves to genuine enlightenment rather than to inflexible adherence to limited knowledge;
- to respect the regulation and order of the university community, which must exist for real learning to take place;
- to respect and obey the laws of the State of Georgia and the United States;
- to respect and obey the Code of Ethics as set forth by the Student Government Association in the University Handbook;
- to assume full responsibility for their individual and collective actions;
- to participate seriously and purposefully in campus life as both student and person;
- to make mistakes because they are "students," but to profit from these mistakes by maturing eventually into fully-participating, responsible, educated leaders in whatever careers they select.

DRUGS

Valdosta State University, as a regional university within the University System of Georgia and recipient of federal funds, supports and complies with the Drug Free Work Place Act of 1988 and the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, and the Drug Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990.

Faculty, staff, and students of Valdosta State University are advised that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of illicit drugs and alcohol is prohibited, and violations of this policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action, to include suspension or termination.

Faculty, staff, and students are expected to adhere to the policies of the institution, observe the basic rules of good conduct, and observe all local, state, and federal regulations relative to illegal drugs and alcohol. Violations of such regulations, including misdemeanor or felony convictions during the course of one's employment or enrollment, will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

This policy is subject to modifications, and said changes will be publicized. Questions regarding this matter may be directed to the Office of Personnel or the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

STUDENT DISSENT

Valdosta State University will not permit any demonstrations or protests which would disrupt any academic or regularly scheduled non-academic pursuits. Dissent which is voiced in a constructive way and is manifested in an orderly and peaceful manner is acceptable. Threats, demands, and coercion are not acceptable. All students affiliated with Valdosta State University are expected to abide by the Student Code of Ethics.

BOARD OF REGENTS STATEMENT OF DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

The following is the policy of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia regarding disruptive behavior in any institution of the University System:

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia reaffirms its policies to support fully freedom of expression by each member of the academic community and to preserve and protect the rights and freedom of its faculty members and students to engage in debate, discussion, peaceful and nondisruptive protest and dissent. The following statement relates specifically to the problem described below. It does not change or in any way infringe upon the Board's existing policies and practices in support of freedom of expression and action. Rather, it is considered necessary to combat the ultimate effect of irresponsible disruptive and obstructive actions by students and faculty which tend to destroy academic freedom and the institutional structures through which it operates.

In recent years, a new and serious problem has appeared on many college and university campuses in the nation. Some students, faculty members, and others have on occasion engaged in demonstrations, sit-ins, and other activities that have clearly and deliberately interfered with the regular and orderly operation of the institution concerned. Typically, these actions have been the physical occupation of a building or campus area for a protracted period of time or the use or display of verbal or written obscenities involving indecent or disorderly conduct.

These actions have gone beyond all heretofore recognized bounds of meetings for discussion, persuasion, or even protest, in that: (1) acquiescence to demands of the demonstrators is the condition for dispersal, and (2) the reasonable and written directions of institutional officials to disperse have been ignored. Such activities thus have become clearly recognizable as an action of force, operating outside all established channels on the campus, including that of intellectual debate and persuasion which are at the very heart of education.

The Board reaffirms its belief that all segments of the academic community are under a strong obligation and have a mutual responsibility to protect the campus community from disorderly, disruptive, or obstructive actions which interfere with academic pursuits of teaching, learning and other campus activities.

The Board of Regents understands that this policy is consistent with resolutions adopted by the American Association of University Professors in April, 1968, by the Association of American Colleges in January, 1968, and by the Executive Committee of the Association for Higher Education in March, 1968, condemning actions taken to disrupt the operations of institutions of higher education.

The Board of Regents is deeply concerned by this new problem. Under the Constitution of the State of Georgia, under all applicable court rulings, and in keeping with the tradition of higher education in the United States, the Board is ultimately responsible for the orderly operation of the several institutions of the University System and the preservation of academic freedom in these institutions. The Board cannot and will not divest itself of this responsibility. Of equal or greater importance, such action of force as has been described above destroys the very essence of higher education. This essence is found in the unhampered freedom to study, investigate, write, speak, and debate on any

aspect or issue of life. This freedom, which reaches its full flowering on college and university campuses, is an essential part of American democracy, comparable to the jury system or the electoral process.

For these reasons and in order to respond directly and specifically to this new problem, the Board of Regents stipulates that any student, faculty member, administrator, or employee, acting individually or in concert with others, who clearly obstructs or disrupts, or attempts to obstruct or disrupt any teaching, research, administrative, disciplinary or public service activity, or any other activity authorized to be discharged or held on any campus of the University System of Georgia is considered by the Board to have committed an act of gross irresponsibility and shall be subject to disciplinary procedures, possibly resulting in dismissal or termination of employment.

Notification of Rights under the Family Educational Rights
and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)
for Post-Secondary Institutions Dealing with Student Educational Records

In accordance with the policy of the Board of Regents of the State of Georgia and under the provisions of The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), Valdosta State University maintains various educational records for each matriculating student. VSU affords students certain rights with respect to these educational records, and these rights include:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access. Students should submit to the registrar, the dean of the appropriate college, the head of the appropriate academic department, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed. VSU's official contact person for such record requests is the Custodian of Official Records in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. There will be a nominal fee for the retrieval and reproduction of any record requests.
- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student's educational records that the student believes are inaccurate. Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the university decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- (3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure

without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the University may disclose education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Directory information: Valdosta State University publishes student information in the form of directories, programs, etc. Students who desire that directory information not be released without consent should notify the Office of Student Affairs in writing. The following is considered directory information unless notification is received to the contrary:

Student's name, address (local and home), telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, class schedule, photograph, full- or part-time status, e-mail address, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

Educational records may be furnished to a requesting party in compliance with a judicial order or pursuant to any lawfully issued subpoena.

- (4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failure by Valdosta State University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605, (202) 260-3887.

The following are exceptions within FERPA, and students should take note of them:

- A. Students do NOT have access to the financial records of parents of students.
- B. Students do NOT have access to letters of recommendation placed in records prior to January 1, 1975.
- C. Personal records of instructional, supervisory, and administrative personnel are NOT open for review and inspection by students.
- D. The professional records of the institution's medical staff are not open for review and inspection by students. However, physicians or other appropriate professionals of the student's choice can review these records.