

Role of Mediation in Resolving Student Conflicts – 1994

by Gene Zdziarski

WHEREAS, student violations are often associated with a personal dispute between two or more students; and

WHEREAS, formal resolution through the imposition of disciplinary action may not always be effective in resolving the underlying interpersonal disputes which resulted in the behavioral infraction; and

WHEREAS, 46 States have adopted or are developing legislation to incorporate some form of mediation in the resolution of legal disputes; and

WHEREAS, mediation has been defined by the National Mediation Academy as a confidential process in which an impartial third party facilitates communication between disputing parties to promote reconciliation, settlement, or an understanding among them; and

WHEREAS, the mediator has no authority to impose judgment on the issues, but such authority rests solely with the parties involved; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Association for Student Judicial Affairs hereby recognizes mediation as a beneficial component of student judicial affairs; further be it

RESOLVED, that the Association for Student Judicial Affairs supports and encourages its members to incorporate mediation into their institutional student affairs programs.

This resolution was passed by the membership of the Association for Student Judicial Affairs at the 1994 Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, February 12, 1994.