S5.16 COLLEGE PROPERTY AND RESIDENCE HALL DAMAGE
Effective Date: June 26, 2012
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Stonehill College expects all students and guests to respect College facilities and property and does not tolerate any form of damage. While the College’s Community Standards includes the “attempted or actual theft, damage or vandalism to property of the College or others” as a violation of college policy, resident students have particular accountability for the area or residential community in which they live.

Damage is defined as the unauthorized use, abuse, destruction, or theft of any College property. Damage may be accidental or intentional. Residence Hall damage is defined as damage to a residence area beyond what would be expected from normal wear and tear. Normal wear and tear is defined as deterioration or depreciation in value that occurs by ordinary and reasonable use of the property in the manner it was intended to be used, without negligence, carelessness, accident, or abuse. Normal wear and tear does not include uses that intentionally, maliciously, or accidentally damage property or uses that disregard College policies, building codes, fire codes, or other municipal or state laws.

Procedures regarding this policy shall be created and reviewed periodically by the College. The procedures shall be maintained by the Office of Residence Life. The Director of Residence Life shall publish the procedures on the Residence Life website and these procedures shall become the official version of the procedures. Changes made to the procedures during an academic year shall be published electronically in the same area of the website where the procedures were originally published.

Policy and Procedures

Policy S5.16 states in part, “Stonehill College expects all students and guests to respect College facilities and property and does not tolerate any form of damage. While the College’s Community Standards includes the ‘attempted or actual theft, damage or vandalism to property of the College or others’ as a violation of college policy, resident students have particular accountability for the area or residential community in which they live.

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As such, the following procedures apply:
   1. Students are prohibited from intentionally damaging, defacing, and destroying College property or the property of another student or guest.
2. Students are responsible for accidental damage or destruction of College property or the property of another student or guest.

3. Students will be held responsible for monetary restitution for any damages they, or their guests, cause anywhere on campus or another area under the control or use of the College. Students may also face disciplinary action under the Community Standards for any intentional or malicious act.

4. If any damage exists beyond the level of normal wear and tear to an individual room where the responsible party or parties is not ascertainable, then the resident student(s) living in that room will share equal responsibility for restitution.

5. If any damage exists beyond the level of normal wear and tear to a Controlled Common Area where the responsible party or parties is not ascertainable, then the resident student(s) for that Controlled Common Area will share equal responsibility for restitution. A Controlled Common Area is any area determined by the College that constitutes shared living space which is not accessible to a general population of students. For example a common room in a suite/townhouse/village house which is only accessible through a door which the suite/house residents have key or card access to is a Controlled Common Area.

6. If any damage exists beyond the level of normal wear and tear to a shared common area, an investigation will be conducted to ascertain responsible parties. The College may, based on the facts of any situation, make a determination, in its sole judgment, that a sub-group of the general population be held responsible for damage in a common area if the facts demonstrate that it is more likely than not that such sub-group is responsible for the damage. For example, the College may assess damages against a residence hall or the wing or floor of a residence hall.