There are some instances where a General Release of Claims may minimize liability exposure to the campus. This risk management memo briefly discusses when a General Release of Claims is appropriate and presents the approved content and format of a Release.

A General Release of Claims may minimize liability exposure to the campus in one of two situations; the participation of students in high-risk voluntary or extra-curricular activities and the participation of individuals other than CSULB faculty, staff and students (referred to elsewhere in this memo as community participation) in high-risk campus sponsored events.

Student Participation in High-Risk Voluntary or Extra-Curricular Activities
In most cases voluntary or extra-curricular activities in which students participate do not present a high-risk of injury. However, occasionally voluntary or extra-curricular activities, such as mountain climbing, present a high-risk of injury. In these situations, it is prudent to have students complete a General Release of Claims. A General Release of Claims can only be used for voluntary or extra-curricular activities. A Release cannot be required for activities which are an academic requirement regardless of the level of risk.

Community Participation
Community participation in many campus sponsored events does not present a high-risk of injury. However, some events such as 10K runs or triathlons do present a high risk of injury. In these situations, it is prudent to have participants complete a General Release of Claims. In those cases where the participant is a minor, the Release must be signed by the participant’s parent or legal guardian.

Content and Format of a General Release of Claims
From a legal perspective, the viability of a General Release of All Claims is limited if it does not describe the types of risks to which the individual might be exposed. The types of risk associated with mountain climbing, for example, might include abrasions, contusions and fractures. The types of risk associated with the event should not be minimized. While the listing of the types of risks may appear to be excessive, it is essential. Individuals must be advised of the risks they are being asked to assume. The General Release of All Claims form (see reverse) has been developed in conjunction with the Office of General Counsel and may be reproduced locally. Completed Releases should be retained for one year.
GENERAL RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

In consideration of my participation in a voluntary or extracurricular activity described below, I hereby agree to assume all risk of any kind of injury or damage I may receive or sustain as a result of my participation, including property damage, personal injury or death. Accordingly by signing below, I hereby completely release and hold harmless and forever discharge the State of California; the Trustees of the California State University; California State University, Long Beach; and each and every officer, agent, representative and employee of each of them, from liability or responsibility for any and all claims, damages, injuries, losses or causes of action that may result from or arise out of my participation in the described activities. I also understand and agree that this release shall be binding as against my heirs and assigns.

Field Trip, Voluntary or Extracurricular Activity:

Location:

Description of Event

Activities:

Types of Risks Involved with the Activity:

Student Name (Please Print):

Student Signature ___________________________________________ Date _____________

Name of Parent or Legal Guardian (if applicable)

Signature of Parent of Legal Guardian (if applicable) ___________________________ Date _____________

FORMS: NA