

MIT Committee on Discipline

*Annual Report to Chair of the Faculty and President of the Institute
Reporting Period: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014*

Reported Cases

Acting in accordance with its purpose of adjudicating cases of alleged student misconduct, the Committee on Discipline (COD), chaired by Prof. Munther A. Dahleh, had 217 cases brought to its attention in academic year 2013-14. These cases were resolved in multiple ways (see table 2). The following is a summary of types of violations for 2013-14, compared to the previous year's totals.

Academic Year Total – Incident Type	2012-2013	2013-2014
Academic Misconduct	51	61
Cheating	*	30
Plagiarism	*	4
Unauthorized Collaboration	*	13
Other	*	14
Personal Misconduct Total	133	151
Alcohol	50	73
Other drugs	16	11
Assault (including domestic)	5	5
Harassment (other than sexual) and stalking	6	2
Property damage	5	2
Disorderly conduct	11	10
Theft	8	2
Unauthorized access, improper use of Institute property	20	23
Domestic violence/argument	*	7
Fire Safety, Arson	*	3
Weapons, Dangerous Objects	*	3
Other	12	10
Sexual Misconduct	5	4
Sexual Harassment	*	1
TOTAL	189	217

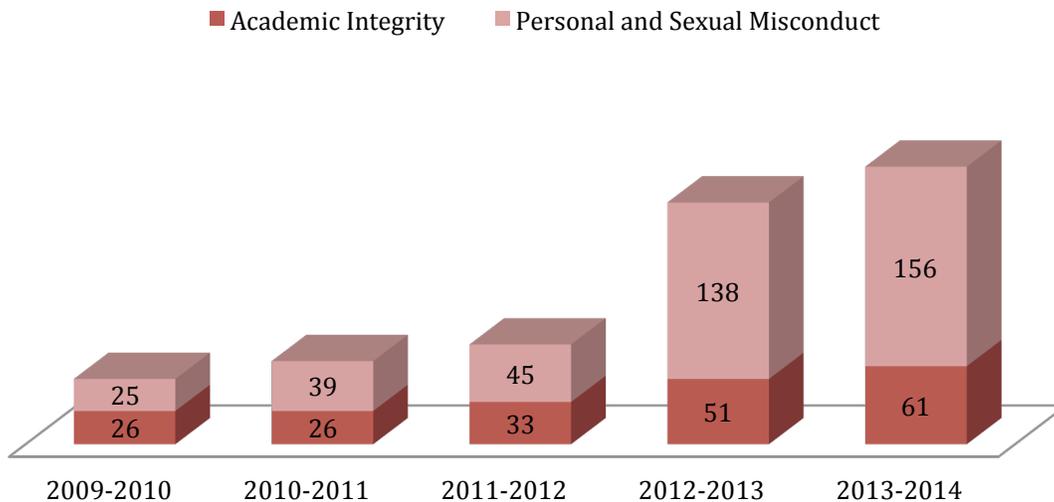
*Some sub-categories were not used in 2012-13.

Note: Each case is counted one time, even when more than one allegation exists in a case.

Case Trend

The number of reported cases was 14% higher in 2013-14 than it was in 2012-13. The number of cases presented to COD has risen 325% over the last five years.

Cases Reported to Committee on Discipline July 2009 to June 2014



Case Resolutions

In July 2013, the COD implemented a new resolution method, the COD Sanctioning Panel, for use in cases in which the complainant and the respondent agreed upon the facts of the case and the respondent's responsibility for violating policy, but do not agree on the appropriate sanction. In cases where probation with transcript notation, suspension, or expulsion are possible outcomes, three members of the COD meet with the complainant and the respondent in a sanctioning panel and determine an appropriate sanction. The use of this sanctioning panel was a success. Cases were resolved more quickly and with less stress on complaining and responding students. This process will be modified in the coming academic year to include additional faculty involvement in the panels.

Academic Year Total - Resolution Type	2012-2013	2013-2014
COD Administrative Resolution	92	108
COD Hearing	27	0
COD Sanctioning Panel	0	10
Faculty Letters to File	44	43
Withdrawal of Case/Dismissal	6	0
Restorative Justice/Alternative Dispute Resolution	3	1
Case closed due to Help Seeking Protocol	10	26
Non-adjudicative resolution	0	16
Cases pending (as of 6/30)	7	13
TOTAL	189	217

Case Outcomes

The philosophy of the COD is that student discipline is one expression of the comprehensive education that a student receives when attending MIT and that by participating in structured educational sanctions (e.g., substance abuse education, mentoring programs, essays that demand critical thinking and personal reflection, etc.), the student learns to correct his or mistakes and becomes a citizen more ready to enter life after MIT. There are some cases which require a student to be separated from the Institute, either temporarily or permanently, due to the Institute's need to ensure a safe environment. This table presents the outcomes assigned by COD in the 2013-14 academic year, compared with the 2012-13 year.

Academic Year Total - Sanction Type	2012-2013	2013-2014
Expulsion	0	1
Suspension or Degree Deferral	8	7
Removal from Institute Housing (House or FSILG)	3	3
Probation	14	24
COD letter to file	91	71
Substance Abuse Education or Treatment	53	78
Restitution	4	4
Other Educational Sanctions or Referrals	85	123
No Contact Order, Directive to stay away from certain buildings	*	7
Faculty letter to file	38	43

*Some sub-categories were not used in 2012-13.

Note: It is common for the COD to assign more than one sanction in a case, so there are more sanctions than cases. Sanctions exclude all cases in which the respondent was found not responsible, the case was dismissed, or case is still pending.

Rules Changes

In addition to resolving cases of alleged student misconduct, the COD is also responsible for maintaining and updating its internal rules, which govern the process used to resolve cases.

During the summer 2013, the COD implemented changes to its rules which were the result of a working group led by Prof. Robert Redwine during the 2012-13 academic year. These changes included the introduction of the sanctioning panel option, the authority for the Chair of COD to assign probation during the administrative resolution process, student involvement in decisions made in the administrative resolution process, and a series of improvements to the process designed to respond to the increasing concern about sexual misconduct. The result of this implementation was streamlined resolution of many cases which used to require a hearing, more efficient use of COD member's time, and improved consistency.

During the 2013-14 academic year, the COD began discussions about its response to sexual assault and sexual misconduct complaints. At the request of the COD, Chancellor Barnhart charged a task force to assess whether the current COD process for resolving sexual

misconduct complaints should be modified and, if so, to recommend the modifications. This task force is led by Prof. Munther Dahleh and includes students, faculty, staff, and several members of the COD, including the past, current, and future COD Chairs. The task force began its work in June 2014 and expects to complete its work in fall 2014.

This year, the COD was approached by the Interfraternity Council (IFC), who requested that jurisdiction for certain violations which had been historically handled by IFC's peer judicial process be transferred to COD's portfolio. After consulting with the Faculty Policy Committee, the Office of the General Counsel, the Division of Student Life, and student leaders, COD tentatively agreed to IFC's request. COD then met with representatives of other student governance bodies, including the Association of Student Activities (ASA) and Panhellenic. Representatives of IFC, ASA, and Panhellenic agreed that COD should take responsibility for student organization misconduct generally, and delegate individual cases to be handled by peer adjudication methods as appropriate. A motion to amend the faculty rules so that COD would have responsibility for student organization misconduct was presented at faculty meeting by Prof. Dahleh in March 2014 and approved unanimously by vote of the faculty in April 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Munther A. Dahleh
Chair, Committee on Discipline
Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science