

MIT Committee on Discipline
Annual Report to Chair of the Faculty and President of the Institute
Reporting Period: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Reported Cases

Acting in accordance with its purpose of adjudicating cases of alleged student misconduct and student organization misconduct, the Committee on Discipline (COD), chaired by Prof. Suzanne Flynn, had 268 cases brought to its attention in academic year 2014-15. 235 of those cases (88%) were complaints alleging misconduct by individual students and 33 of those cases (12%) were complaints alleging misconduct by student organizations. These cases were resolved in a variety of ways. The following is a summary of types of violations for 2014-15, compared to the previous year's totals.

Table 1: Complaints of Individual Student Misconduct

Academic Year Total - Incident Type	2013-2014	2014-2015
Academic Misconduct	61	33
Cheating	30	15
Plagiarism	4	6
Unauthorized Collaboration	13	10
Other	14	2
Personal Misconduct Total	151	193
Alcohol	73	86
Other drugs	11	11
Assault	5	1
Harassment (other than sexual) and stalking	2	9
Property damage	2	1
Disorderly conduct	10	6
Theft	2	6
Unauthorized access, improper use of Institute property	23	25
Domestic violence/argument	7	3
Fire Safety, Arson	3	13
Weapons, Dangerous Objects	3	1
Residence Hall Security or Guest Violations	*	9
Hazing	*	9
Other	10	13
Sexual Misconduct, excluding sexual harassment	4	9
Sexual Harassment	1	0
TOTAL	217	235

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

*Category not calculated in prior year. Complaints in these categories in prior years would have been listed in other.

Table 2: Complaints of Student Organization Misconduct

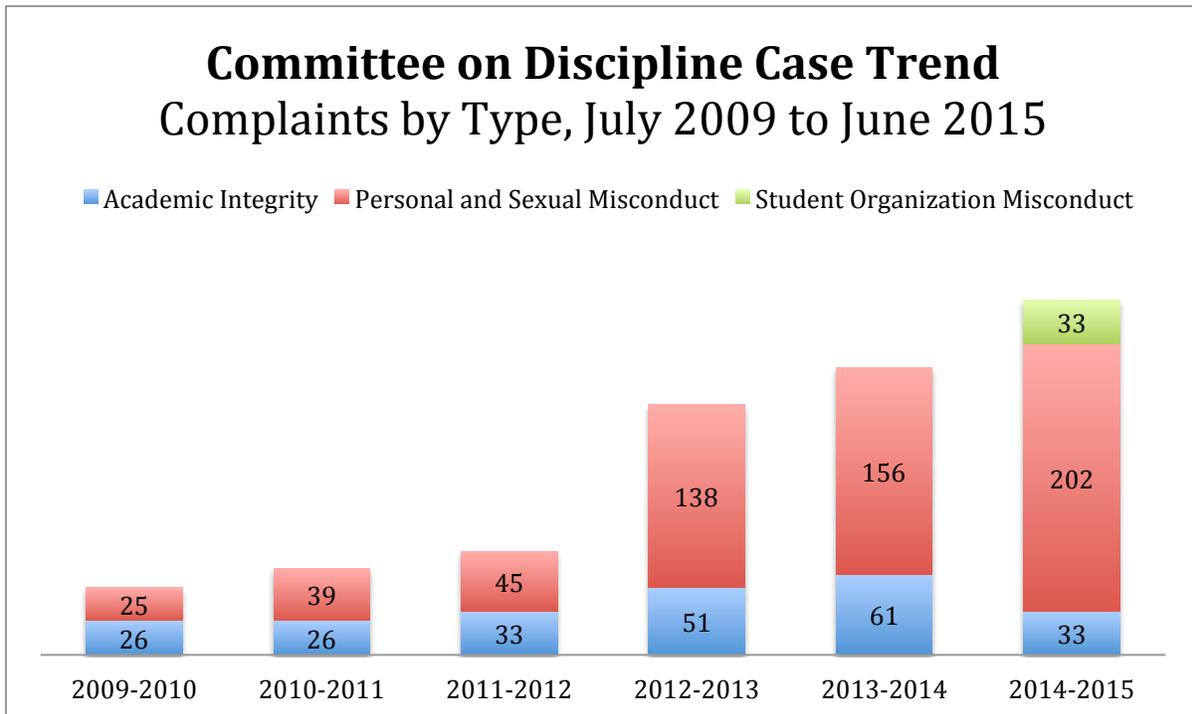
Academic Year Total - Incident Type	2014-2015
Alcohol	13
Other Drugs	1
Exceeding Occupancy	2
Fire Safety	2
Hazing	6
Harassment (other than sexual)	3
Open Air Spaces Policy/Unauthorized Roof Access	3
Disorderly Conduct	1
Other	2
Total	33

Note: Each case is counted one time, even when more than one allegation exists in a case. COD did not report data on student organization cases in prior years, so no comparison is available.

Case Trend

The number of reported cases was 23.5% higher in 2014-15 than it was in 2013-14. Part of this increase is due to the addition of student organization misconduct cases to the COD’s portfolio of responsibility. If that change had not taken place, this year’s total reported cases would have been 8% higher than the previous year. The number of academic integrity complaints decreased by 46% in 2014-15 but the combined categories of personal and sexual misconduct increased 29.5%.

The number of cases presented to COD has risen 425% over the last six years.



Case Resolutions

The COD uses a variety of methods, formal and informal, to resolve cases presented to it. These resolution methods are described in the Rules and Regulations of the Committee on Discipline. The resolution methods used by the COD in 2014-15 are presented below and compared to the previous academic year.

2014-15 was the second year that the COD had the sanctioning panel resolution method available. This method continues to be regarded as successful and is chosen by the strong majority of students who have the choice of going to a sanctioning panel or a hearing.

Table 3: Case Resolution Methods Used by the Committee on Discipline

Academic Year Total - Resolution Type	2013-2014	2014-2015
COD Administrative Resolution	108	149
COD Hearing	0	1
COD Sanctioning Panel	10	7
Faculty Letters to File	43	18
Withdrawal of Case/Dismissal	0	4
Restorative Justice/Alternative Dispute Resolution	1	1
Case closed due to Help Seeking Protocol	26	27
Non-adjudicative resolution	16	38
Delegated to student-run judicial mechanism	*	13
Cases pending (as of 6/30)	13	10
TOTAL	217	268

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 her mistakes and becomes a more mature person. A very small number of cases (about 2% in 2014-15) require a student to be separated from the Institute, either temporarily or permanently, due to the Institute's need to ensure a safe environment. About 98% of cases are resolved without suspension or expulsion. This table presents the outcomes assigned by COD in the 2014-15 academic year, compared with the 2013-14 year.

Table 4: COD Sanctions by Academic Year

Academic Year Total – Sanction Type	2013-2014	2014-2015
Expulsion	1	0
Suspension or Degree Deferral	7	5
Removal from Institute Housing (House or FSILG)	3	1
Probation	24	38
COD letter to file	71	75
Substance Abuse Education or Treatment	78	74
Restitution	4	6
Other Educational Sanctions or Referrals	123	142
No Contact Order, Directive to stay away from certain buildings	7	2
Faculty letter to file	43	18
Academic Integrity Seminar	*	15
Targeted Community Service Project	*	10
Required abstinence from alcohol and drugs	*	6

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, the case was delegated to a student-run panel for action, or the case is still pending.

* Category of sanction not calculated in prior academic year.

Additional Activity

In addition to responding to complaints of misconduct, the COD pursued a number of activities this year.

COD Sexual Misconduct Task Force

The Chancellor charged Prof. Munther Dahleh, past Chair of COD, to lead a task force to review and propose revisions to the procedures of the Committee on Discipline regarding sexual misconduct cases. The task force included students, faculty, current and former COD members, the Title IX Coordinator, Violence Prevention and Response, Office of the General Counsel, and DSL professionals from the Office of Student Citizenship (OSC), the Office of the Dean of Student Life, Community Development and Substance Abuse, and the Student Activities Office. The task force completed a broad literature review of the social science research related to sexual assault generally and in the college environment specifically, a detailed study of the current laws and regulations impacting this field, an analysis of the data from MIT’s Community Attitudes on Sexual Assault survey, and examined COD’s actions in sexual misconduct cases over the last several years. The talent and expertise of task force members was combined to make 10 recommendations to the community. The task force then solicited feedback widely from the community via email, hosting a town hall meeting, and presenting the recommendations to the faculty and other stakeholders. The task force then analyzed this feedback and is now working on updating the COD rules to be consistent with their recommendations. It is anticipated that the revised rules will take

effect in fall 2015. When this revised process is in place, MIT will have an enhanced procedure for handling sexual misconduct allegations that is fair to both students involved, provides extensive training to everyone involved in handling cases, resolves complaints more quickly, professionalizes the investigation of these cases, and reduces the burdens on the students involved in the discipline process as significantly as possible. When finished, this will serve as a major milestone in MIT's campaign to prevent and respond effectively to sexual assault.

Update to the COD Rules and Regulations

Following extensive consultation with student leaders, student organization leaders, staff in the Division of Student Life, and Faculty Policy Committee, Prof. Munther Dahleh offered a motion in March 2014 to amend the Faculty Rules governing COD to make it explicit that alleged misconduct by student organizations will be adjudicated by the COD. This motion was passed unanimously in April 2014. The Committee on Discipline subsequently revised its internal Rules and Regulations to enact this change and provide for more detailed definitions and procedures for the adjudication of student organization misconduct. Additional updates to the COD Rules and Regulations provided for a detailed procedure for conducting sanctioning panels and technical changes.

Increased COD Training

The Office of Student Citizenship increased the annual training provided to members of the Committee on Discipline from 8 hours in 2013-14 to 20 hours in 2014-15. The expanded training included hands-on practice adjudicating mock cases, training in sanctioning and exercising the particular kind of structured judgment required in deciding COD cases, and extensive training on areas related to sexual assault, including the neurobiological effects of trauma on the victim's brain and the practical implications of this research for the COD, data from the MIT Community Attitudes on Sexual Assault survey, and a review of a qualitative study done with sexual assault survivors at MIT who reported their experience to the Institute. This increased training was well-received by members of the COD.

Respectfully submitted,

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