

Committee on Discipline

Andrew Whittle, chair

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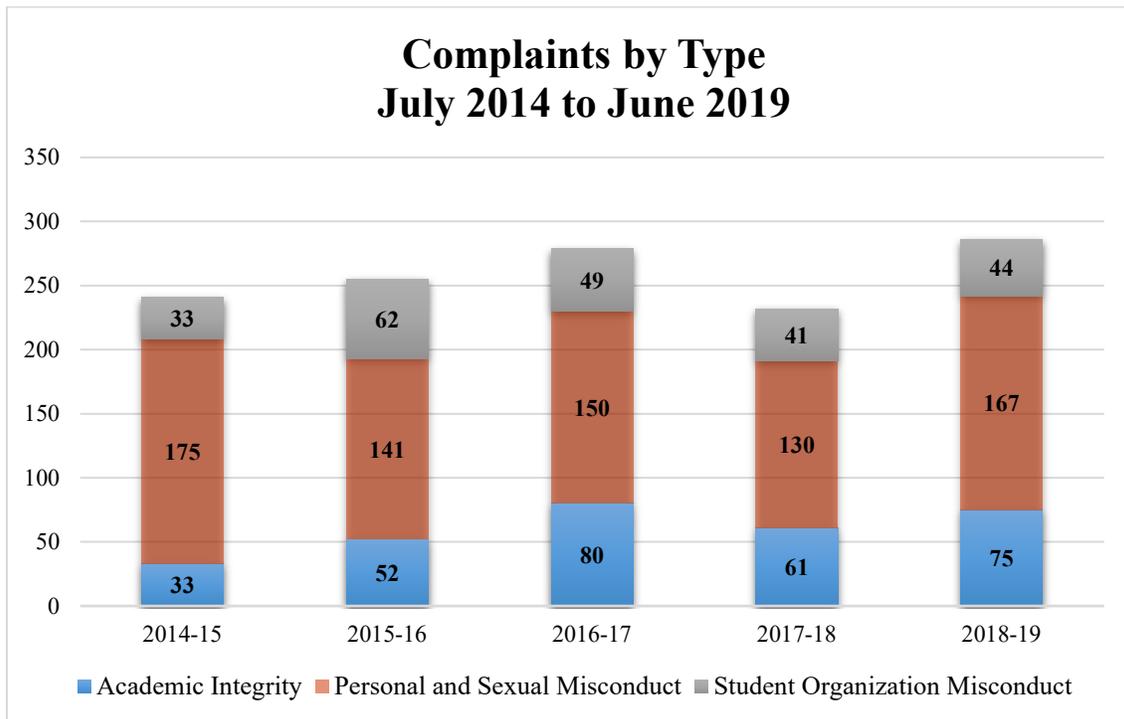
Reported Cases

There were 286 total complaints brought to the Committee on Discipline's attention in academic year 2018-2019. The Committee on Discipline (COD), chaired by Professor Andrew Whittle, resolved complaints by adjudicating cases of alleged misconduct. Of those 286 complaints, 242 (85%) were complaints alleging individual student misconduct and 44 (15%) were complaints alleging student organization misconduct.

Case Trend

The total number of reported cases was 23% higher in 2018-2019 than it was in 2017-2018.

The following stacked bar chart, entitled "Complaints by Type July 2013 to June 2019," shows that the number of cases reported to the COD increased from 241 in 2014-2015 to 255 in 2015-2016 and to 279 in 2016-2017. There was then a decrease to 232 cases reported in 2017-2018, but there was an increase again in 2018-2019, to 286 cases reported. Source: MIT Committee on Discipline.



The tables below summarize alleged policy violations from 2018-2019 compared to previous years. There is often more than one alleged policy violation per complaint.

Table 1 shows the types of alleged policy violations for individual student misconduct:

Academic Year Total – Alleged Policy Violations	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Academic Misconduct	80	61	87
Cheating and/or Facilitating Academic Dishonesty	47	20	28
Plagiarism	6	17	40
Unauthorized collaboration	22	10	18
Other academic misconduct	5	14	1
Personal Misconduct Total Alleged Policy Violations	197	201	239
Alcohol	60	55	79
Other drugs	14	6	22
Assault, Reckless Endangerment, Threats/Intimidation	12	14	25
Harassment (other than sexual)	7	4	4
Property damage	0	9	11
Disorderly conduct	29	17	5
Theft	5	5	1
Unauthorized access/improper use of MIT property	16	17	23
Fire Safety, Arson	6	17	2
Weapons, Dangerous Objects	2	2	1
Residential Life and Housing policies	11	14	15
Institute Expectations of Student Behavior/Integrity	28	25	33
Other	2	2	7
Community well-being	4	8	8
MITNet Rules of Use	1	9	3
Title IX Related Cases	7	2	14
Sexual harassment	1	0	5
Stalking (including nonsexual stalking)	0	1	2
Nonconsensual sexual contact or penetration	6	1	4
Intimate Partner Violence	0	0	3
TOTAL ALLEGED POLICY VIOLATIONS	284	264	340

Table 2 shows the types of alleged policy violations for student organization misconduct:

Academic Year Total – Alleged Policy Violations	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Alcohol	10	20	38
Other Drugs	0	0	3
Exceeding Occupancy	8	8	11
Fire Safety	2	1	2
Hazing	0	2	0
Harassment (other than sexual)	1	1	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	5	2
Noise Complaints	19	7	15
Recruitment violations	2	0	3
Social Event Policy violation (unregistered, no guest list, not checking IDs, etc.)	28	38	49
Other	8	4	8
Total Alleged Policy Violations	78	86	131

Note: It is common for there to be more than one alleged policy violation in a case, so there are more alleged policy violations than cases.

Case Resolutions

The COD utilizes a variety of resolution methods, described in the [Rules of the Committee on Discipline](#). Table 3 shows the COD's resolution methods in 2018-2019 compared to previous academic years.

For the fifth year, the COD was responsible for student organization misconduct. COD continued its strong partnership with student organization coordinating groups (e.g., Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, Association of Student Activities, etc.) to resolve most cases of alleged student organization misconduct by referring them to student-run judicial boards.

Table 3 shows case resolution methods used by the COD:

Academic Year Total – Resolution Type	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
COD Administrative Resolution	100	119	121
COD Hearing	1	2	4
COD Sanctioning Panel	6	2	7
COD Sexual Misconduct Hearing	4	0	2
COD Sexual Misconduct Sanctioning Panel	0	1	0
Faculty Letters to File	63	47	62
Complainant Withdrew Case or Dismissal*	19	9	19

Good Samaritan Amnesty Policy (GSAP) applied: referred to Alcohol and Other Drug Services (AODS)**	9	7	7
Non-adjudicative resolution: restorative justice, mediation, referral to other office	28	4	20
Delegated to student-run judicial mechanism	36	27	30
Cases pending (as of June 30)	13	14	14
TOTAL	279	232	286

* Dismissal is NOT the same as a finding of not responsible. It means that the situation did not rise to the level of a possible policy violation, but still may have involved educational follow up.

** Most GSAP cases were referred directly to AODS and only a few are referred to OSC because at the onset it was unclear if GSAP applied or not in the case.

Case Outcomes

COD strives to meet its educational philosophy of student accountability through intentional educational sanctions (e.g., substance abuse education, mentoring programs, projects, reflections, workshops, etc.). Through these structured sanctions, students learn about various interpersonal skills and are able to reflect on their own personal development. A small number of cases (2% in 2018-2019) require a student to be separated from the Institute, either temporarily or permanently. About 98% of cases are resolved without suspension or expulsion.

Table 4 shows sanctions assigned during the 2018-2019 academic year, compared with the two previous years:

Academic Year Total – Sanction Type	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Degree Revocation	0	0	0	1
Expulsion	3	2	1	3
Suspension	3	8	4	3
Probation	35	34	29	25
Removal from Institute housing (House or FSILG)	2	2	0	0
Housing relocation	0	2	1	0
COD letter to file	73	59	79	74
Faculty letter to file	35	63	47	61
Substance abuse education or treatment	109	53	58	55
Restitution	3	1	0	0
Other educational sanctions or referrals	153	181	148	138

Decision-making workshop	*	*	29	15
No contact order, directive to stay away from certain buildings	10	9	4	4
Academic integrity seminar	15	5	3	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.

*Not previously counted, would have been captured in “Other educational sanctions”

Additional Notes

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

COD Sexual Misconduct Subcommittee

The COD Sexual Misconduct Subcommittee worked to continue training related to Title IX-specific cases. Over the past few years, this subcommittee has developed expertise and consistency in hearing these types of cases and has received over 20 hours of training specific to these unique cases.

The subcommittee also met regularly to examine the COD process for adjudicating sexual misconduct under COD sexual misconduct rules and procedures and made small revisions to the process as a result of the review (implemented in February 2019).

Continued COD Training

The Office of Student Conduct continued to provide briefings and trainings to the members of the COD. Approximately 20 hours of training was provided to all members of the COD.