

Committee on Discipline

Andrew Whittle, chair

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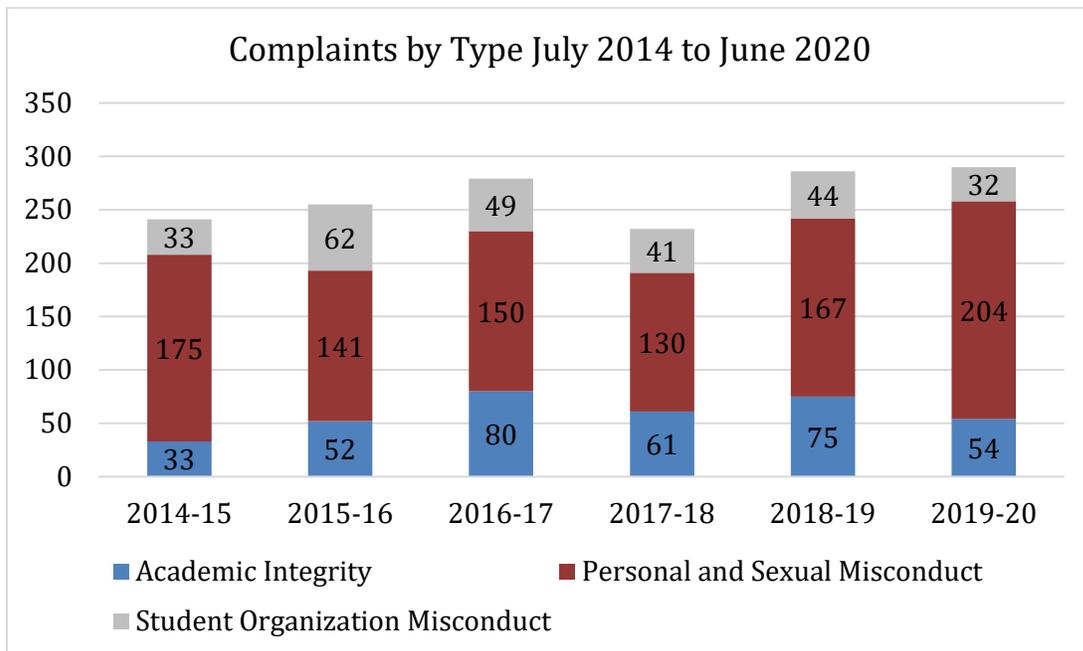
Reported Cases

There were 290 total complaints brought to the Committee on Discipline's attention in academic year 2019-2020. The Committee on Discipline (COD), chaired by Professor Andrew Whittle, resolved complaints by adjudicating cases of alleged misconduct. Of those 290 complaints, 258 (89%) were complaints alleging individual student misconduct and 32 (11%) were complaints alleging student organization misconduct.

Case Trend

The majority of the total cases were reported during the fall semester. Given the Institute closing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the COD spring semester reporting decreased.

The following stacked bar chart shows that the number of cases reported to the COD over a six-year period.



The tables below summarize alleged policy violations from 2019-2020 compared to previous years. There is often more than one alleged policy violation per complaint, so there are more alleged policy violations than total complaints.

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

Alleged Policy Violations	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020

Academic Misconduct	61	87	54
Alcohol	55	79	98
Other drugs	6	22	11
Assault, Reckless Endangerment, Threats/Intimidation	14	25	19
Harassment	4	4	5
Property damage	9	11	25
Disorderly conduct	17	5	7
Theft	5	1	2
Unauthorized access/improper use MIT property	17	23	42
Fire Safety, Arson	17	2	4
Weapons	2	1	0
Residential and Housing policies	14	15	25
Institute Expectations of Behavior/Integrity	25	33	28
Other	11	10	6
Community well-being	8	8	10
Sexual harassment	0	5	4
Stalking	1	2	1
Nonconsensual sexual contact or penetration	1	4	5
Intimate Partner Violence	0	3	4
TOTAL ALLEGED POLICY VIOLATIONS	264	340	359

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

Alleged Policy Violations	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Alcohol	20	38	36
Other Drugs	0	3	0
Exceeding Occupancy	8	11	9
Fire Safety	1	2	0
Hazing	2	0	0
Harassment	1	0	1
Disorderly Conduct	5	2	2
Noise Complaints	7	15	8
Recruitment violations	0	3	3
Social Event Policy violations	38	49	21
Other	4	8	1
Total Alleged Policy Violations	86	131	81

Case Resolutions

The COD utilizes resolution methods as described in the [Rules of the Committee on Discipline](#).

Table 3 shows the COD's resolution methods in 2019-2020 compared to previous academic years:

Resolution Type	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
COD Administrative Resolution	119	121	152
COD Hearing	2	4	2
COD Sanctioning Panel	2	7	2
COD Sexual Misconduct Hearing	0	2	2
COD Sexual Misconduct Sanctioning Panel	1	0	0
Faculty Letters to File	47	62	46
Complainant Withdrew Case or Dismissal*	9	19	13
Good Samaritan Amnesty Policy (GSAP) applied: referred to Alcohol and Other Drug Services**	7	7	4
Non-adjudicative resolution: restorative justice, mediation, referral to other office	4	20	36
Delegated to student-run judicial mechanism	27	30	22
Cases pending (as of June 30)	14	14	11
TOTAL	232	286	290

* 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 use 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:

Sanction Type	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Degree Revocation	0	0	1	0
Expulsion	2	1	3	1
Suspension	8	4	3	2
Probation	34	29	25	46
Removal from Institute housing (House or FSILG)	2	0	0	1
Housing relocation	2	1	0	2
COD Warning	59	79	74	117
Faculty letter to file	63	47	61	48
Substance abuse education or treatment	53	58	55	88
Restitution	1	0	0	2
Other educational sanctions or referrals	181	148	138	136
Decision-making workshop	N/A	29	15	51
No contact order, directive to stay away from certain buildings	9	4	4	7
Academic integrity seminar	5	3	6	2

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 the case is still pending.