

Committee on Discipline

Suzanne Flynn, chair

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Reported Cases

There were **279** complaints brought to the Committee on Discipline's attention in the academic year 2016-17. The Committee on Discipline (COD), chaired by Professor Suzanne Flynn, worked to resolve these complaints by adjudicating cases of alleged student misconduct and student organization misconduct. Of those 279 complaints, 230 (82 %) were complaints alleging individual student misconduct and 49 (18 %) were complaints alleging student organization misconduct. The table below summarizes types of complaints of 2016-17 compared to previous years.

Table 1: Complaints of Individual Student Misconduct

Academic Year Total – Incident Type	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Academic Misconduct	33	52	80
Cheating	15	15	47
Plagiarism	6	8	6
Unauthorized collaboration	10	22	22
Other academic misconduct	2	7	5
Personal Misconduct Total	193	192	144**
Alcohol	86	100	58**
Other drugs	11	12	13
Assault	1	2	7
Harassment (other than sexual) and stalking	9	10	6
Property damage	1	2	0
Disorderly conduct	6	8	15
Theft	6	9	4
Unauthorized access/improper use of MIT property	25	25	13
Fire Safety, Arson	13	4	5
Weapons, Dangerous Objects	1	2	2
Residence Hall Security or Guest Violations	9	4	9
Hazing	9	0	0
Institute Expectations of Student Behavior/Integrity	*	6	9
Other	13	8	3
Title IX Related Cases	9	11	6
Sexual harassment	0	3	1
Stalking (including nonsexual stalking)	*	2	0
Nonconsensual sexual contact or penetration	*	6	5
Intimate Partner Violence	*	*	0
TOTAL	235	255	230

Notes: Each complaint is only counted one time, even when more than one allegation exists. *Category not calculated previously. Previously, these types of complaints were captured in other similar categories. **Due to changes in the Good Samaritan Amnesty Policy, OSC/COD no longer processes these cases, which explains the drop in alcohol and total numbers. For reference, during the AY16, there were 63 GSAP cases for individuals.

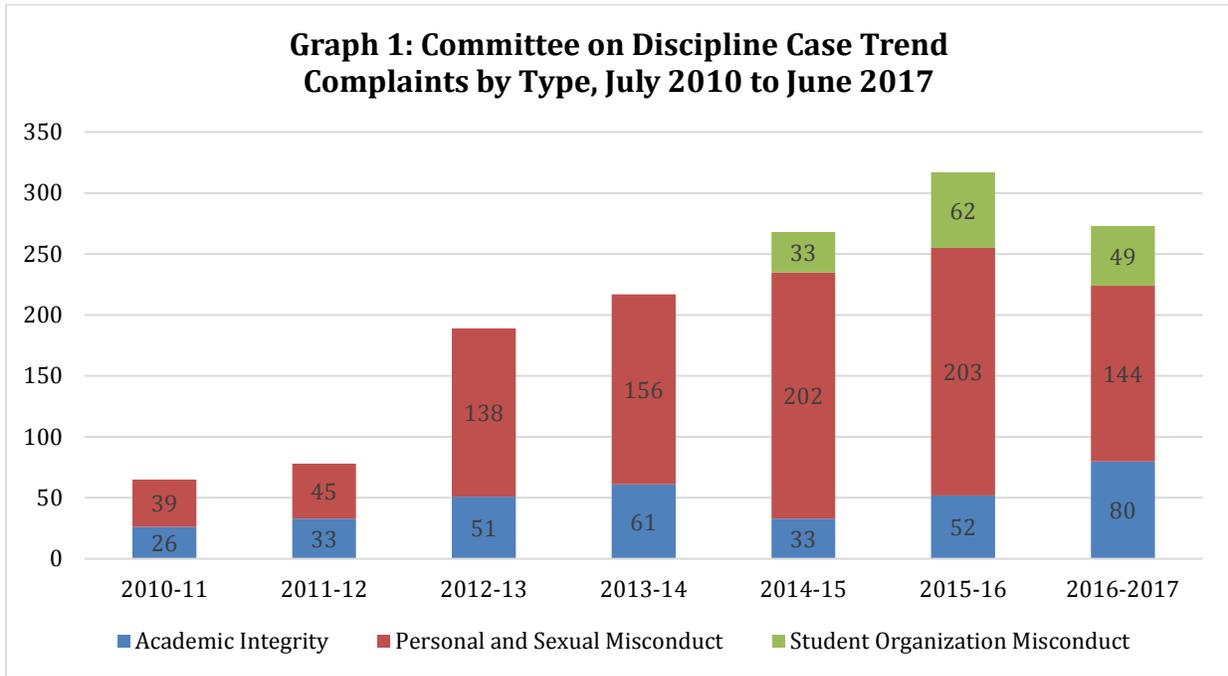
Table 2: Complaints of Student Organization Misconduct

Academic Year Total – Incident Type	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Alcohol	13	31	10
Other Drugs	1	1	0
Exceeding Occupancy	2	0	5
Fire Safety	2	0	1
Hazing	6	5	0
Harassment (other than sexual)	3	0	1
Unauthorized Roof Access	3	3	**
Disorderly Conduct	1	3	0
Noise Complaints	*	13	15
Recruitment violations	*	4	1
Social Event Policy violation (unregistered, no guest list, not checking IDs, etc.)	*	*	9
Other	2	2	7
Total	33	62	49

Notes: Each case is counted one time, even when more than one allegation exists in a case. *Category not calculated in previously. **Now counted in Social Event Policy violation.

Case Trend

The total number of reported cases was 10% lower in 2016-17 than it was in 2015-16. This is mainly due to the change in categorization and tracking of alcohol Good Samaritan Amnesty cases. Academic misconduct complaints against individual students increased 54%. Unauthorized access complaints, which usually involve “hacking” or “tours” decreased 48%.



Case Resolutions

The COD utilizes a variety of resolution methods, described in the Rules and Regulations of the Committee on Discipline. Table 3 shows the COD’s resolution methods in 2016-17 compared to previous academic years.

For the third 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.

This was the second year that the COD used the new method for sexual misconduct and Title IX related complaints. All related cases were resolved using this method this year.

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

Academic Year Total – Resolution Type	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
COD Administrative Resolution	149	131	100
COD Hearing	1	4	1
COD Sanctioning Panel	7	6	6
COD Sexual Misconduct Hearing	*	3	4
COD Sexual Misconduct Sanctioning Panel	*	0	0
Faculty Letters to File	18	35	63
Withdrawal of Case/Dismissal	4	20	19
Restorative Justice/Alternative Dispute Resolution	1	0	1
Case closed due to Help Seeking Protocol	27	62	9***
Non-adjudicative resolution	38	15	19
Delegated to student-run judicial mechanism	13	35	36
Referred to other office	**	**	8
Cases pending (as of 6/30)	10	6	13
TOTAL	268	317	279

*This was a new option in 2015-16.

** OSC did not track this prior to AY16-17.

*** Most of these went to CDSA and only a few were referred to OSC because at the onset it was unclear if GSAP applied or not in the case.

Case Outcomes

COD strives to meet their 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 how to correct their mistakes and are able to reflect on their own personal development. A small number of cases (4.35 % in 2016-17) require a student to be separated from the Institute, either temporarily or permanently. About 95 % of cases are resolved without suspension or expulsion. Table 4 shows sanctions assigned during in the 2016-17 academic year, compared with previous years.

Table 4: COD Sanctions by Academic Year

Academic Year Total – Sanction Type	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Expulsion	0	3	2
Suspension or Degree Deferral	5	3	8
Removal from Institute Housing (House or FSILG)	1	2	2
Housing relocation	0	0	2
Probation	38	35	34
COD letter to file	75	73	59
Substance Abuse Education or Treatment	74	109	53
Restitution	6	3	1
Other Educational Sanctions or Referrals	142	153	181
No Contact Order, Directive to stay away from certain buildings	2	10	9
Faculty letter to file	18	35	63
Academic Integrity Seminar	15	15	5

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.

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 increase training related to Title IX specific cases. Over the past two 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.

Additionally, the COD sexual misconduct (SM) subcommittee met biweekly for the academic year. The purpose of the biweekly meetings was to examine the COD process for adjudicating SM under the new Sexual Misconduct COD Rules and Procedures (implemented in November 2015) and plan for the upcoming full program review that is to occur in academic year 2017-18. During fall 2016 term, the subcommittee conducted case study reviews of the cases they have completed. During spring 2017 term, the subcommittee developed a draft rubric to use as an internal document for the COD to consider when sanctioning.

Continued COD Training

The Office of Student Citizenship continued to provide briefings, trainings, and ongoing development activities to the members of the COD. Over 20 hours of such activity was provided to all members of the COD. Advanced topics included unconscious bias in decision making. In addition to standard training provided to all COD members, the members of the sexual misconduct subcommittee received an additional 18 hours of specialized training in issues

related to sexual misconduct, more than any members of the COD have ever received before. The enhanced training included LBGT issues related to the COD's work, questioning techniques, and the neurobiology of alcohol-induced blackouts and the practical implications of this research for the COD. This increased training was well received by members of the COD.