



Proposal for Changes to the Codes of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

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DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

The Code of Student Conduct (CSC) and Code of Academic Integrity (CAI) are routinely reviewed and updated for administrative efficiencies, ease of understanding, and to stay current with best practices.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the OSC worked through twice as many cases than the previous year pertaining to both Codes, while the Office of Rights and Responsibilities within Resident Life (R&R) likewise saw a dramatic increase in cases and behavioral issues in and around our residence halls and public private partnership properties.

Further, the Codes as written reflect an adversarial process and should do more to emphasize the educative nature of student disciplinary processes, as well to reinforce the OSC's mission to promote the health and safety of the campus community, while at the same time ensuring due process for all involved.

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE

The Code of Student Conduct (V-1.00(B)) and the Code of Academic Integrity (III-1.00(A)) function as two processes out of the same office. The proposed changes to both policies are below:

- 1) Create tighter alignment between the two Codes as they relate to terminology, definitions, timing, and sanctioning processes.
2) Provide greater clarity as to what is expected of students as they participate in the conduct process (i.e., move away from legal terminology as our process is an administrative and educational one).
3) Update the hearing board procedures in a manner that expedites the process, makes it more accessible to all students, and centers student learning.

- i) The appeal process should include an initial review to determine if an appeal should be heard based on the grounds outlined in the Codes.
- 4) Modify the listed sanctions and update the factors considered when determining the most appropriate sanctions (e.g. mitigating and aggravating circumstances), to align with best practices.
  - a) Terminology like “demeanor” should be removed as that is subjective to interpretation.
  - b) The Disciplinary Probation sanction should be adjusted to give the case manager the ability to include restricting factors they deem appropriate.
- 5) Shift dismissal-level sanction (suspension and expulsion) review and approval to the Dean of Students.
- 6) Adjust resolution options for different types of cases.
  - a) Provide students with additional resolution options, like the ability to resolve their cases with smaller boards. This would expedite the scheduling of most disciplinary meetings, while at the same time putting students more at ease.
  - b) These boards should have staff members participate to ensure proper and consistent interpretation and administration of policies.
  - c) Cases resulting in transcript notations (e.g. suspension, expulsion, or “XF”) should be subject to appeal.
  - d) Resolution options for organizations should be included.

Changes specific to the Code of Academic Integrity:

- 1) Create a resolution option for minor incidents to quickly and appropriately address incidents in consultation with the affected faculty and students without instituting a full hearing process, in order to center student learning and clarify academic integrity expectations for students.
- 2) Refine the definition of the “normal sanction” designation of the grade of “XF” to align with best practices.
  - a) Major assignments for a course should warrant an “XF”, but other assignments typically should not.
  - b) The CAI should provide more clarity as to what types of violations would warrant what types of penalties.
- 3) Provide for greater flexibility to the limiting factors of the “XF”. The language should be adjusted to give the case manager the ability to include the restricting factors they deem appropriate.
- 4) Add sanction options to the CAI to provide educational outcomes for incidents when a student is not currently enrolled in a course. The sanction list should be expanded to include disciplinary sanctions to be used when appropriate.

## **SUGGESTION FOR HOW YOUR PROPOSAL WOULD BE PUT INTO PRACTICE**

Upon charging the Student Conduct Committee with this proposal, the committee would work with knowledgeable campus partners to make the changes, including:

- OSC Staff
- Undergraduate Student Legal Aid Office
- Graduate Student Legal Aid Office
- The University Student Judiciary
- The Student Government Association
- Academic Integrity Liaisons (a volunteer group of faculty and staff)
- The Department of Resident Life (Office of Rights & Responsibilities)

New versions of the CSC and CAI would be presented to the Senate for discussion and approval, approved by the President, and then given to OSC for implementation. OSC would work with campus partners, departments, and colleges to educate the community about the changes made and how they will affect operations.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**