

## **University Disciplinary Actions: 2016-17**

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Annually, the Council of the University Senate asks Campus and Student Life to provide a report of all student disciplinary proceedings, as required by actions taken by the Council on May 23, 1970 and June 8, 1976.

### **I. Area Disciplinary Systems**

Campus and Student Life reports to the Council on disciplinary matters that have occurred in the academic units during the year. Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, 30 Area Disciplinary Committees were convened to consider allegations brought against 29 students in 30 separate hearings.

In the **College**, 22 disciplinary hearings were held involving 21 accused students. One student was heard on two separate occasions, for the same charge in both matters, resulting in additional sanctions against the student. There was one request for review; the request was denied.

1. A student was charged with physically assaulting another student and causing damage to private property. The student was found responsible and was placed on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the student's time in the College. A No-contact Directive was also issued between both parties.
2. A student was accused of academic dishonesty and lying. The student submitted a series of fraudulent doctor's notes to receive extensions on assignments. The student was found responsible and was given a warning.
3. A student was charged with initiating unwanted physical contact with another student, causing the other student injury. The student was found not responsible for any violation of University policy.
4. A student was accused of plagiarism, specifically, submitting a final paper which contained multiple uncited passages. The student was found responsible and given a warning.
5. A student was accused of general misconduct. The student allegedly jumped the fence of a Major League Baseball park and attempted to access a concessions area. The student was found responsible and placed on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the student's time in the College.
6. A student was charged with initiating a physical altercation with another student. The student was found responsible and placed on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the student's time in the College.

7. A student was accused of plagiarism and academic dishonesty. The student submitted a report that was previously submitted by another student. The student was found responsible and suspended for one quarter.
8. A student was accused of academic misconduct. Specifically, the student was alleged to have not authored writing assignments submitted for the course. The student was found not responsible.
9. A student was charged with cheating during a final exam. The student was found responsible and suspended for three quarters.
10. A student was accused of cheating. Specifically, it was alleged that the student accessed course documents on Chalk relating to material on a final exam. The student was found responsible and placed on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the student's time in the College.
11. A student was charged with cheating, specifically for referring to material that may have given the student an unfair advantage during an exam. The student was found responsible and placed on disciplinary probation through the winter quarter, 2019.
12. A student was charged with violating the University's Policy on Information Technology Use and Access. It was alleged that the student misused a '@uchicago.edu' email address for private, commercial, non-University business in communicating with another college and representing themselves as a UChicago "University Guidance Counselor." The student was found responsible and suspended for two quarters.
13. A student was charged with cheating. Specifically, this student and another student produced questionably similar answers on an exam. The student was found not responsible.
14. Related to the aforementioned case (#13), the other student of the pair was accused of cheating. This student was also found not responsible.
15. A student was charged with cheating on an exam. This student, along with another student, submitted substantively similar answers to an essay question. The committee concluded that this student was responsible for cheating and was placed on disciplinary probation through the end of spring quarter, 2020.
16. Related to the aforementioned case (#15), a second student was accused of cheating on an exam. This student's essay was substantively similar to another student's essay. It was determined that this student did not cooperate with the other student in academic dishonesty and was not responsible for cheating.

17. A student was accused of cheating. This student was charged with submitting an essay on an exam with substantive similarities to the essay of another student in the class. The student was found responsible and placed on disciplinary probation through the spring quarter, 2018.
18. A student accused of cooperating with the aforementioned student (#17) in cheating on an exam was exonerated of the charge and found not responsible.
19. A student was accused of hazing another student, who was injured as a result. The committee concluded that the actions of this student constituted hazing and suspended the student for two quarters.
20. A second student, accused of participating in the same hazing incident (#19), was also found responsible. This student received a two quarter suspension.
21. A student was charged with cheating after the student made an attempt to complete additional portions of the exam and then requested a re-grade of the exam to glean extra points. The student was found responsible for cheating and placed on disciplinary probation for three quarters.
22. A student who had previously appeared before a disciplinary committee and been found responsible was again accused of cheating. The student was found responsible and suspended for two quarters. Additionally, the committee recommended that the student remain on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the student's time in the College. The student requested a review of the committee's decision. The request did not meet the criteria for convening a review board.

The **Chicago Booth School of Business** held three disciplinary hearings involving three accused students. None of the students requested a review of the disciplinary committee's decision.

23. A student in the Evening/Weekend program was accused of cheating on a problem set, supplying a previous year's answer to the current assignment. The student was found responsible for cheating and placed on disciplinary probation. Additionally, the committee recommended that the student receive a failing grade for the course.
24. A student in the Evening/Weekend program was accused of academic dishonesty. Specifically, the student was charged with submitting work that was a solution to a previous year's assignment. The student was found responsible for cheating and placed on disciplinary probation. Additionally, the committee recommended that the student receive a failing grade for the course.
25. A student in the Evening/Weekend program was accused of submitting work that was not the student's own in a mid-term exam. The student was found responsible and placed on disciplinary probation. The committee recommended that the student receive a 0 for the exam and a failing grade for the course.

The **Graham School** held one disciplinary hearing involving one student. The student did not request a review of the disciplinary committee's decision.

- 26. A student was accused of academic dishonesty. Specifically, the student was accused of purchasing a paper and submitting the paper as the student's own work. The student was found responsible and suspended for nine quarters.

The **Law School** held four disciplinary hearings involving four students. None of the students requested a review of the disciplinary committee's decision.

- 27. A student was accused of exceeding the time limit on a take home exam and misleading a Law School administrator regarding the reason for the overage. The student was found responsible for academic misconduct and misrepresentation. The committee issued a written warning and informed the instructor of the class that misconduct had occurred.
- 28. A student was charged with plagiarizing three papers in a single course. The student was found responsible and suspended for one quarter. Additionally, the committee recommended that the student receive a failing grade and zero credit for the course. The committee also stipulated that all papers submitted by the student for the remainder of the student's Law School career be submitted to the Office of the Law School Dean of Students for a plagiarism review.
- 29. A student was accused of plagiarism related to a submitted draft paper. The student was found responsible and given a warning.
- 30. A student was alleged to have failed to complete their undergraduate degree prior to matriculating at the Law School. Additionally, the student was accused of misrepresenting their credentials on résumés provided to the Law School Career Services for purposes of participating in an interview program. The student was found responsible and given a warning.

**Table 1. Student cases referred to area disciplinary committees over past decade**

Year	College/ Academic Matter	College/ Other Matter	Graduate/ Academic Matter	Graduate/ Other Matter	Total
2007-08	3	6	9	2	20
2008-09	1	5	12	2	20
2009-10	2	4	8	2	16
2010-11	4	3	3	3	13
2011-12	4	9	10	2	25
2012-13	1	9	5	2	17
2013-14	2	12	6	3	23
2014-15	7	21	6	1	35
2015-16	19	16	28	4	67
2016-17	15	7	7	1	30

## II. University-wide Student Disciplinary System

Campus and Student Life also reports to the Council on matters referred to the University-wide Student Disciplinary System for conduct involving alleged violations of the University Policy on Discrimination, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct (see Appendix).

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, the University-wide Student Disciplinary Committee (UWSDC) was convened on 13 occasions to consider allegations brought against 13 students. Three of the students involved in these matters (two respondents and one complainant) requested a review of UWSDC decisions.

1. A graduate student was accused of sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual abuse. The Committee found the respondent responsible for all three charges and expelled the student. The respondent requested a review of the decision. The review board upheld the Committee's decision and sanction.
2. Two College students were heard on charges of dating/partner violence. One individual was found to be responsible for committing acts of emotional and mental abuse upon the other student. The other individual was found to be responsible for committing one act of physical abuse against the other. Each student was placed on disciplinary probation. A No-Contact Directive was imposed to remain in place for the remainder of each student's time in the College.
3. A College student was referred to the Committee following an allegation of sexual assault. The Committee found the student responsible for engaging in non-consensual sexual activity through the use of coercion. The Committee imposed an eight-quarter suspension, a requirement that the student attend an educational session on boundaries and guidelines on consent. A No-Contact Directive was imposed to remain in place for the remainder of each student's time in the College.
4. A College student was referred to the Committee for an alleged sexual assault. The Committee found the student not responsible for the alleged violation.
5. A College student was referred to the Committee for an alleged sexual assault. The Committee found the student not responsible for the alleged violation. The Committee recommended that an existing No-Contact Directive remain in effect for the respondent and complainant.
6. A graduate student was referred to the Committee on charges of sexual harassment and stalking. The student was found responsible and received a sanction of disciplinary probation and restricted access to certain geographic areas on campus while the complainant was concurrently enrolled in classes. Additionally, the Committee recommended counseling and mandated that a No-Contact Directive remain in effect for as long as both students are enrolled in their programs. Both the complainant and respondent requested a review of the sanctions on the basis that the sanctions were disproportionate to the policy violation. The review board, having the authority to modify the Committee's original sanction, found in favor of the complainant and imposed an eight-quarter suspension on the respondent.

- 7-8. A College student was referred to the Committee for two separate allegations of sexual assault involving two complainants. Two consecutive disciplinary hearings were held to hear each complaint. In the first hearing, the respondent was found not responsible for sexual assault. In the second hearing, the respondent was found responsible for sexual assault. The Committee issued a warning; priority registration for the complainant for as long as both parties are enrolled at the University; restricted access to specific geographic locations on campus; and educational sessions. The Committee also required that the existing No-Contact Directives between both parties remain in effect.
9. A graduate student was referred to the Committee for an allegation of sexual misconduct. The Committee found the student responsible and issued a nine-quarter suspension.
10. A College student appeared before the committee to respond to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual abuse and sexual assault. The Committee found the student not responsible. The Committee recommended the existing No-Contact Directives between both parties remain in effect.
11. A College student was referred to the Committee for an allegation of stalking. The Committee found the student responsible and imposed a three-quarter suspension. Additionally, the student will be on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the student's time in the College and will be restricted from accessing specific geographic locations on campus. The Committee also required that the existing No-Contact Directives between both parties remain in effect.
12. A College student was referred to the Committee for an allegation of sexual misconduct. The Committee found the student not responsible. The Committee also required that the existing No-Contact Directives between both parties remain in effect.
13. A College student was accused of sexual misconduct. The Committee found the student not responsible. The Committee also required that the existing No-Contact Directives between both parties remain in effect.

**Table 2. Number of hearings held by the University-wide Student Disciplinary Committee since July, 2014<sup>1</sup>**

Year	College	Graduate Divisions and Schools	Total
2014-15	2	2	4
2015-16	4	1	5
2016-17	10	3	13

<sup>1</sup> Table 2 displays student matters based on the affiliation of the respondent (i.e., as a student in the College or in one of the graduate divisions/professional schools).

## Appendix

### **Sexual Misconduct**

The University Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct includes definitions of the various forms of sexual misconduct addressed by the University-wide Student Disciplinary System:

*Sexual misconduct encompasses a range of conduct, from sexual assault (a criminal act that the U.S. Department of Education defines as a form of sexual harassment) to conduct such as unwanted touching or persistent unwelcome comments, e-mails, or pictures of an insulting or degrading sexual nature, which may constitute unlawful harassment, depending upon the specific circumstances and context in which the conduct occurs.*

*In compliance with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (“VAWA”) and the Clery Act, the University uses the State of Illinois Criminal Code's definitions of sexual assault and sexual abuse. The University incorporates the State's definitions of several other important terms, including domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and recognizes that sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are not gender-specific crimes.*

Definitions can be found here:

<http://studentmanual.uchicago.edu/page/policy-harassment-discrimination-and-sexual-misconduct>

### **Sanctions**

The University-wide Student Disciplinary Committee has broad discretion to apply any of the sanctions listed in the *Student Manual* (alone or in combination) when it finds a respondent responsible for violating University Policy. When determining sanctions, the Committee will consider the following elements for individual respondents: (i) The details and extent of the specific Policy violation(s); (ii) the impact of the respondent's actions on the complainant; (iii) the steps necessary to stop, remedy and prevent future occurrences of the respondent's behavior; (iv) the safety of the University community; and (v) the extent to which the respondent understands and acknowledges the impact of their actions.

University sanctions are described here:

[http://studentmanual.uchicago.edu/university\\_dicip\\_system](http://studentmanual.uchicago.edu/university_dicip_system)