

University Disciplinary Actions: 2011-12

Karen Warren Coleman
Vice President for Campus Life and Student Services

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.

As an initial matter, the All-University Disciplinary Committee did not meet during the 2011-12 academic year.

With regard to disciplinary matters that have occurred in the academic units during the 2011-12 academic year, Area Disciplinary Committees were convened on twenty-two occasions to consider allegations brought against twenty-five students, as described below.

In the College, twelve disciplinary hearings were convened involving thirteen students. Three of the students requested a review of the disciplinary decision.

- A student was brought before a disciplinary committee for an allegation of plagiarism. The student was accused of lifting complete sentences from online sources for two papers submitted to the same instructor of one course. The student did not contest the allegation. The disciplinary committee placed the student on a four-quarter suspension with a suspended suspension of one quarter.
- In the second case, a student accused another student of sabotage; the accused was charged with impersonating three separate individuals to undermine the prospects of a summer internship of another student. The disciplinary committee found the accused responsible and suspended the student for four quarters. The accused asked for a review of the decision. The request did not meet the grounds to constitute a review committee for this case and thus no review occurred.
- The third case involved two students who accused each other of sexual assault. The disciplinary committee heard the allegations of each student in one contained hearing; both contended that each was too inebriated to have given consent when they engaged in sexual activity. The disciplinary committee decided that the evidence was insufficient to find either party culpable of sexual assault.
- A fifth student was accused of inappropriately using grant funds and submitting a false report to the grant's administrators to conceal the student's actions. The committee found the student had poor insight in understanding the depth of the student's deception and held the student responsible. The committee placed the student on a two-quarter suspension, required the repayment of the funds, and requested that the student write a letter of explanation and apology to the donor.
- In the sixth case, a disciplinary committee hearing was held for a student accused of violating the College norms of student conduct. It was alleged that the student used illegal drugs on campus, was in possession of an air gun within the residence halls, refused to cooperate with a university official in the course of a disciplinary investigation, and threatened a fellow student. The student admitted to using

illegal drugs on two occasions, refusing to cooperate with a university official, and having an air gun in the residence halls, but denied intentionally threatening a fellow student. The committee imposed a two-quarter suspension with a recommendation that the student seek treatment and asked that the Dean of Students suggest re-enrollment be contingent on an evaluation from Student Counseling Services.

- A seventh student was brought to a disciplinary committee in relation to the aforementioned case. This student was also accused of violating the College norms of student conduct. The specific allegations were the distribution and selling of drugs and firing an air gun, both behaviors to have occurred in the residence halls. The student did not dispute the facts. The committee imposed a four-quarter suspension with a recommendation that the student seek professional counseling. The committee asked that the Dean of Students suggest re-enrollment be contingent upon the successful completion of appropriate treatment.
- The eighth case involved a student accused of sexual abuse—unwanted sexual contact, not to include penetration—by another student. The committee concluded that the student was not responsible for sexual abuse.
- A ninth student was brought to a disciplinary hearing accused of buying, using, and distributing drugs in the residence halls. The student admitted to possessing and using drugs but denied any distribution. The Office of Undergraduate Student Housing had already made an independent decision to remove this student from the residence halls. The disciplinary committee decided that the sanction imposed by the Office of Undergraduate Student Housing was severe enough and placed the student on probation for five quarters.
- A tenth student was accused of making a threatening statement to an instructor in a paper submitted for a course. The committee determined that the statement was out of context and not meant to be interpreted as a threat. The student was found not responsible for threatening the instructor.
- In the eleventh disciplinary case, a student was accused of plagiarism. The committee determined that the student exhibited sloppy citation practices but concluded that the student did not plagiarize. The student was found not responsible for plagiarism but encouraged the student to the following: submit a draft of every paper for instructor review, take more careful notes with every paper submission, read Charles Lipson's book on citation, and always err on the side of caution and always attribute when in doubt.
- A twelfth student was accused of plagiarizing a lab report. The facts of the case were not in dispute. The student heavily borrowed from an outside source without proper citation. This case followed two prior accusations of academic dishonesty involving this same student. In a prior disciplinary hearing, this student was given a three-quarter suspension for plagiarism and was told to seek therapy to address the issues at hand in the previous two instances. The committee, in this instance, unanimously agreed to expel this student. A request for a review was submitted to Campus and Student Life; however, the request for a review did not meet the prescribed grounds and thus a review committee was not constituted.
- A thirteenth student in the College was accused of plagiarizing the main writing sample required for a career-related program application process. The student was

accused of using complete thoughts from an award-winning essay and essayist. Independent of the hearing, the program expelled the student from the program. The disciplinary committee imposed a three-quarter suspension. The student requested a review of the decision, a review committee was constituted and a decision was made to uphold the disciplinary committee's decision.

In the Graduate Divisions and Professional Schools, ten hearings were convened involving twelve students. One student in the Division of the Physical Sciences requested a review of the disciplinary committee's decision, but the request did not meet the grounds for a review; a review committee was not constituted. Another student in the Booth School of Business also requested a review for which a review committee was not constituted, as the request did not meet any of the grounds for review.

The Chicago Booth School of Business held five disciplinary hearings. Two hearings occurred in the full-time MBA program, and three hearings took place in the Evening/Weekend Program.

- A full-time MBA student was accused of plagiarizing a homework assignment. The disciplinary committee made a decision to suspend the student for one quarter. This student requested a review, which was denied on the basis that the request did not meet any of the grounds for review.
- An Evening MBA student was accused of plagiarizing a homework assignment. The disciplinary committee made a decision to suspend the student for one quarter and recommended that the instructor assign a letter grade of a D for the course.
- Another full-time MBA student was brought to a disciplinary committee for violating the Standards of Scholarship and Professionalism. The allegations were: 1) misrepresenting to one bank the student's offer status with another bank; 2) continuing to participate in on-campus recruitment after accepting an offer from one bank; 3) providing false information and listing inaccurate qualifications on the student's profile. The disciplinary committee suspended the student for seven quarters.
- A second Evening MBA student was accused of plagiarizing a homework assignment. The disciplinary committee imposed a retroactive one-quarter suspension for the current quarter. The student was unregistered from the course in question.
- A third Evening MBA student was accused of cheating on an exam—specifically plagiarizing 2 questions on the exam. The student was placed on probation for the remainder the student's time at Booth, and the committee recommended that the faculty give the student an F for the course.

The Law School convened two disciplinary hearings.

- A student was accused of engaging in non-consensual sexual conduct with a fellow student three years before the hearing. As the alleged victim declined to participate in the hearing, the Dean of Students in the Law School acted as the complainant for the purposes of the proceeding. In addition to the testimony provided in the hearing, the committee considered other relevant materials, including trial transcripts from an underlying civil litigation. After all

considerations, the committee found that there was insufficient evidence to establish that the student engaged in sexual conduct by force or that the student knew that the other student was unable to give consent.

- A second disciplinary committee was convened to hear allegations that a student plagiarized two papers submitted for credit toward graduation from the Law School. After considering testimony and related materials, the committee determined that the student plagiarized portions of both papers. The committee recognized that the student was candid and forthright throughout the proceeding and further recognized mitigating circumstances that contributed to the situation. As such, the student was placed on probation for two quarters. The student was required to complete a paper on plagiarism and to redo each of the two papers. All three papers had to be completed in the two-quarter period that the student was placed on probation.

The Physical Sciences Division convened three disciplinary hearings involving 5 students.

- Two students were seen by the same disciplinary hearing committee to speak to allegations of cheating on their candidacy examination. Both students were accused of acting strangely during the examination, including leaving the room for large periods of time, and consequently, testers found similarities in each of their solutions to problems sets. After reviewing relevant materials, including test notes, one student was found not responsible for cheating. The other student was found to have inexplicable reasons for leaving the room and did not produce materials to support the student's answers. That student's exam was considered tainted and the committee recommended that the exam be disqualified without a grade.
- In a second disciplinary committee hearing, two students were accused of cheating on an exam by accessing the internet to view another student's test answers. Both students were found responsible for cheating. One student was given a four-quarter suspension and the committee recommended that the instructor assign an F for the course. The second student was given a two-quarter suspension and the committee recommended that the instructor use discretion in assigning a grade for the course.
- In a third disciplinary hearing, a fifth student was also accused of cheating on an exam. The committee found the student responsible and imposed a four-quarter suspension.

Students sent before disciplinary committees, AY 2002– AY 2012

Year	College/ Academic	College/ Other	Graduate/ Academic	Graduate/ Other	Total
02-03	4	2	6	3	15
03-04	4	0	16	4	24
04-05	1	4	6	1	12
05-06	3	6	8	3	20
06-07	7	6	3	2	18

<i>07-08</i>	3	6	9	2	20
<i>08-09</i>	1	5	12	2	19
<i>09-10</i>	2	4	8	2	16
<i>10-11</i>	4	3	3	3	13
<i>11-12</i>	4	9	10	2	25
<i>Average</i>	3.2	4.5	8.1	2.4	18.2