Committee on Discipline
End-of-Year Report to President’s Office
2012-2013

Acting in accordance with its purpose of adjudicating cases of alleged student misconduct that are brought to its attention, the Committee on Discipline (COD) held twenty-eight hearings involving twenty-two respondents (one student was heard for four incidents in a single set of hearings, another student had two separate hearings, another student had two cases heard together). Twenty-three pending cases are expected to be resolved in the Fall 2012 semester, most low-level party and alcohol allegations. Two represent more serious allegations of intimate partner violence. The hearings this year primarily involved issues of disorderly conduct, sexual misconduct, harassment, drug use and provision, and academic misconduct. Of the respondents in hearings, twenty-one were undergraduate students and one was a graduate student. The respondents were primarily men, with seven female respondents. In hearings where the student was found responsible, sanctions included removal from housing, suspension, and probation. Additionally, there were approximately 122 disciplinary warning letters created by or submitted to the Office of Student Citizenship. Approximately half of these were from faculty addressing academic misconduct. Others addressed low level behavioral misconduct, including parties, theft, drug use, and disorderly conduct. Two cases were also resolved via restorative justice practices, with good success in these early test cases.

The hearing caseload continued its trend of increasing from last year, nearly tripling. While this likely represents an improvement in reporting, many faculty, staff, and students have anecdotally indicated that many incidents are not reported to the Office of Student Citizenship. The Office of Student Citizenship plans to continue outreach to increase the flow of reported instances, especially from faculty.

Additionally, a committee chaired by Professor Robert Redwine submitted changes to the COD rules, which will generally be implemented starting in July 2013. The COD continues to work to address consistency in reporting and decisions by expanding training and providing members with more guidance in decision making.

This year, two faculty members who were scheduled to conclude their service will continue in the fall to fill in absences: Professor Byrne will fill in for Professor Briggs, who is leaving his appointment early. Likewise, Professor Gray will fill in for Professor Rayo, who will be on sabbatical in the fall. Professor Munther Dahleh will continue his service next year. We will have two new faculty and one new student member. Additionally, Sara Nelson will replace Michael Bergren as a Dean’s Representative. Christy Anthony is leaving her position as Director of the OSC on June 7, 2013 and Kevin Kraft will take over that role.