

Committee on Discipline

Suzanne Flynn, chair (July 2017 – December 2017)

Andrew Whittle, chair (January 2018 – June 2018)

Tessa McLain, executive officer

Reported Cases

There were 232 total complaints brought to the Committee on Discipline's attention in academic year 2017-2018. The Committee on Discipline (COD), chaired by Professor Suzanne Flynn (Fall 2017) and Professor Andrew Whittle (Spring 2018), resolved complaints by adjudicating cases of alleged misconduct. Of those 232 complaints, 191 (82%) were complaints alleging individual student misconduct and 41 (18%) were complaints alleging student organization misconduct.

Case Trend

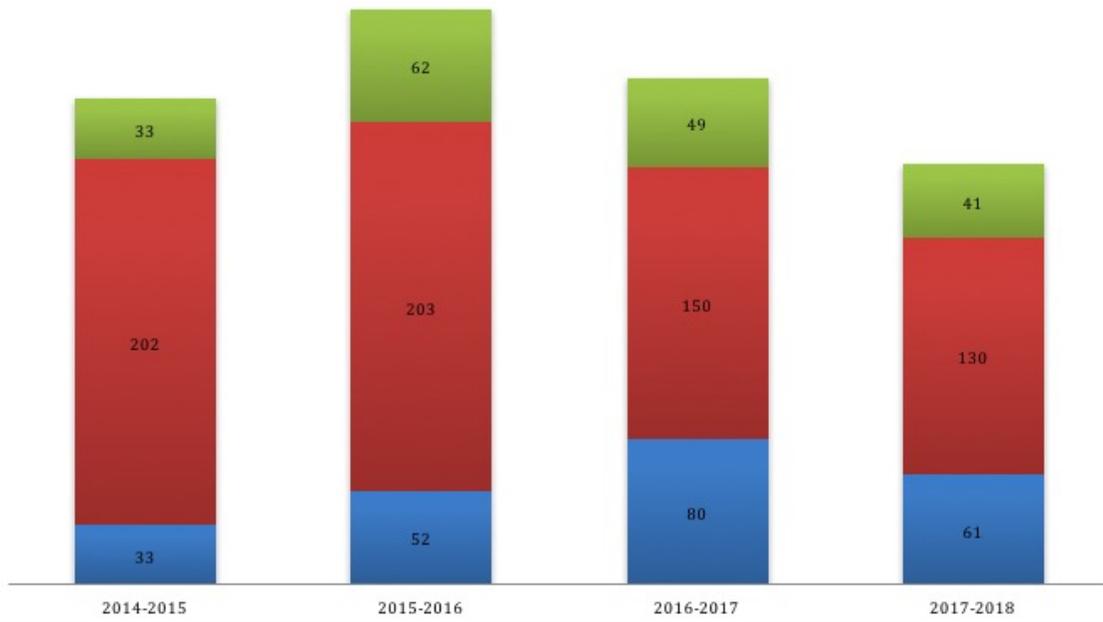
The total number of reported cases was 16% lower in 2017-2018 than it was in 2016-2017.

The following stacked bar chart, entitled "Committee on Discipline Case Trend, Complaints by Type July 2014 to June 2018," shows that the number of cases reported to the COD increased from 268 in the 2014-2015 academic year to 317 in 2015-2016. The chart then shows a decrease, with 279 cases reported in 2016-2017 and 232 in 2017-2018. Source: MIT Committee on Discipline.

Committee on Discipline Case Trend

Complaints by Type, July 2014 to June 2018

■ Academic Integrity
 ■ Personal and Sexual Misconduct
 ■ Student Organization Misconduct



The tables below summarize alleged policy violations from 2017-2018 compared to previous years. There is often more than one alleged policy violation per complaint.

Table 1 shows the types of alleged policy violations for individual student misconduct:

Academic Year Total – Alleged Policy Violations	2016-2017	2017-2018
Academic Misconduct	80	61
Cheating	47	20
Plagiarism	6	17
Unauthorized collaboration	22	10
Other academic misconduct	5	14
Personal Misconduct Total Alleged Policy Violations	197	201
Alcohol	60	55
Other drugs	14	6
Assault, Reckless Endangerment, Threats/Intimidation	12	14
Harassment (other than sexual)	7	4
Property damage	0	9

Disorderly conduct	29	17
Theft	5	5
Unauthorized access/improper use of MIT property	16	17
Fire Safety, Arson	6	17
Weapons, Dangerous Objects	2	2
Residential Life and Housing policies	11	14
Hazing	0	0
Institute Expectations of Student Behavior/Integrity	28	25
Other	2	2
Community well-being	4	8
MITNet Rules of Use	1	9
Title IX Related Cases	7	2
Sexual harassment	1	0
Stalking (including nonsexual stalking)	0	1
Nonconsensual sexual contact or penetration	6	1
Intimate Partner Violence	0	0
TOTAL ALLEGED POLICY VIOLATIONS	284	264

Table 2 shows the types of alleged policy violations for student organization misconduct:

Academic Year Total – Alleged Policy Violations	2016-2017	2017-2018
Alcohol	10	20
Other Drugs	0	0
Exceeding Occupancy	8	8
Fire Safety	2	1
Hazing	0	2
Harassment (other than sexual)	1	1
Disorderly Conduct	0	5
Noise Complaints	19	7
Recruitment violations	2	0
Social Event Policy violation (unregistered, no guest list, not checking IDs, etc.)	28	38
Other	8	4
Total Alleged Policy Violations	78	86

Note: It is common for there to be more than one alleged policy violation in a case, so there are more alleged policy violations than cases.

Case Resolutions

The COD utilizes a variety of resolution methods, described in the [Rules of the Committee on Discipline](#). Table 3 shows the COD's resolution methods in 2017-2018 compared to the previous academic year.

For the fourth 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 full year that the COD used the new method for sexual misconduct and Title IX related complaints. All related cases during 2017-2018 were resolved using this method.

Table 3 shows case resolution methods used by the COD:

Academic Year Total – Resolution Type	2016-2017	2017-2018
COD Administrative Resolution	100	119
COD Hearing	1	2
COD Sanctioning Panel	6	2
COD Sexual Misconduct Hearing	4	0
COD Sexual Misconduct Sanctioning Panel	0	1
Faculty Letters to File	63	47
Complainant Withdrew Case or Dismissal**	19	9
Good Samaritan Amnesty Policy (GSAP) applied: referred to Alcohol and Other Drug Services (AODS)	9*	7*
Non-adjudicative resolution: restorative justice, mediation, referral to other office	28	4
Delegated to student-run judicial mechanism	36	27
Cases pending (as of 6/30/2018)	13	14
TOTAL	279	232

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

**Dismissal is NOT the same as a finding of not responsible. It means that the situation did not rise to the level to warrant a case creation.

Case Outcomes

COD strives to meet its 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 about various interpersonal skills and are able to reflect on their own personal

development. A small number of cases (2% in 2017-2018) require a student to be separated from the Institute, either temporarily or permanently. About 98% of cases are resolved without suspension or expulsion.

Table 4 shows sanctions assigned during in the 2017-2018 academic year, compared with the two previous years:

Academic Year Total – Sanction Type	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Expulsion	3	2	1
Suspension	3	8	4
Removal from Institute housing (House or FSILG)	2	2	0
Housing relocation	0	2	1
Probation	35	34	29
COD letter to file	73	59	79
Substance abuse education or treatment	109	53	58
Restitution	3	1	0
Other educational sanctions or referrals	153	181	148
Decision-making workshop	*	*	29
No contact order, directive to stay away from certain buildings	10	9	4
Faculty letter to file	35	63	47
Academic integrity seminar	15	5	3

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.

*Not previously counted, would have been captured in “Other educational sanctions”

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 few 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.

The subcommittee also met biweekly for the academic year to (1) examine the COD process for adjudicating sexual misconduct under the new COD sexual misconduct rules and procedures (implemented in November 2015) and (2) plan for the upcoming review of the process during 2018-2019.

Continued COD Training

The Office of Student Conduct 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 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 additional training was received well by members of the COD.