

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT, FALL 2012

Yale undergraduates are called before the Executive Committee of Yale College when they are charged with possible violations of the Undergraduate Regulations.

### **Dispositions without a formal hearing:**

If they are willing to admit the validity of the charge, they may petition to have a disposition without a formal hearing and come before the Coordinating Group. The Coordinating Group is composed of the Committee's three officers, (the chair, a fact-finder and the secretary of the committee), along with a Yale undergraduate. In a question and answer dialogue with the student, followed by a comment from the student's adviser (usually his or her residential college dean), the Coordinating Group does its best to grasp the detailed circumstances of the violation as well as the current state of mind of the student with respect to the past event, which might in turn be an indicator of future behavior. The penalty, however, is based solely on the violation. We may dismiss the charges, but more often we hand down a penalty: reprimand, probation, suspension, or expulsion. The penalty may also include a fine, if warranted, and is often accompanied by an additional task, which we assign in order to complete the act of making amends or to make certain that the students understand not just that they have received a penalty, but also why.

The sanction of reprimand is a warning or censure with the hopes that greater awareness has been achieved, increasing reflection and forethought for future actions. We often feel that the Executive Committee process creates a "teachable moment" for a student in conversation with Committee members. A reprimand is not a part of the permanent record but is kept in the ExComm database, so should the student come before us again for any reason, a harsher penalty may be rendered. The sanction of probation is a part of the student's permanent record and if they are ever asked if they've been disciplined as an undergraduate, they must say that they have been; a dean or master must verify the same. While on probation, an additional sanction is often given whereby the student may not be considered for a leadership position of organization, event or team. Suspension is also a part of a student's permanent record, which must be verified by dean or master and during the time of suspension, the student may not enter Yale's campus for classes, activities, meetings, etc. Parents or legal guardians are notified of the suspension.

In the Fall of 2012 we had 29 dispositions without formal hearings involving 51 students. There was one formal hearing before the entire Executive Committee involving one student. There were no penalty hearings. As a result of our deliberations 7 students were suspended, 5 received probation, 35 received reprimands, and no student had the degree withheld. Charges against 5 students were withdrawn.

**Plagiarism:** Of the 23 charges of Academic Dishonesty (two of these held over from the close of the spring term), 8 were the result of plagiarism. The penalties handed down for the plagiarism cases were 4 suspensions. The charges on the other 4 cases were carried over to Spring 2013.

### **Other forms of academic dishonesty:**

We had 15 cases concerned with other forms of cheating: stealing another student's take-home exam (2), copying answers from another student (3), submitting text-book solutions as the student's own (8), submitting a papers that were substantially the same for two different courses (1), submitting lab reports of another student as the student's own.

**We saw the full range of acts of poor judgment, very often without malicious intent but occasionally with either a will to destructive behavior or blindness as to its implications:**

A number of students were brought before us for trespassing. In a single case a number of students were brought to the Executive Committee for verbal and physical abuse of another student. This resulted in two terms of probation for one student and reprimands for the others involved. Another case of harassment resulted in two terms of probation. We had one case of falsification of documents (the Yale transcript and resume) which resulted in four terms of suspension). One case involved improper use of email, imperiling the integrity of the university and defiance, harassment of other students via email and acting defiantly to the residential college dean: that student was placed on probation for the remainder of her time at Yale.

**Many of the charges involved violations of alcohol regulations:**

For example, there were several cases in which hosting a social event resulted in underage drinking and the transporting of minors. These cases resulted both in reprimands and with the charges being withdrawn for a few of the students. Additionally, all students found responsible for violating alcohol regulations were usually the leaders of a student organization and thus required to submit a risk-management plan signed by all members of the group and in consultation with the Office of Student Affairs and Yale Police.

**Referred Cases:**

There were also 47 cases involving 49 students whom we did not see but whom we referred directly to the residential college. 45 of these students were intoxicated. 44 of them were transported, 41 to YNH or University Healthy services and two who were transported to Boston hospitals during the Yale/Harvard game.

**Full Hearings:**

Although the vast majority of students choose the disposition, a student who wishes to contest the charge may also wish to come instead before the entire committee. The full committee is composed of three tenured and three untenured faculty members, three undergraduates and the Dean's designate. The secretary of the committee also attends full hearings, but is not a voting member. We had one formal hearing in Fall of 2012.

**Penalty Hearings:**

Students may also choose to come before the full committee if, after having had a disposition without a formal hearing, they wish to dispute the penalty. We had no penalty hearings in Fall 2012.

**Concluding thoughts:**

I have served as head of the Executive Committee since Fall 2011.

In his 2006-2007 report, Paul Bloom wrote that "most cases that the committee sees are caused by foolishness, inattention, inebriation, or honest mistakes." I continue to think that is just right. Most of the students we see are individuals of high integrity atoning for a poor choice. It is our hope that the experience of coming before the Executive Committee is not simply that of a penalty imposed in reaction to the breaking of Yale regulations. If one doesn't come to

understand the wisdom of the regulations, how breaking them often endangers the student himself or herself, how it can affect others in the community and the values of an educational institution, the process will not have accomplished what it should. We hope that students who come before us leave the room with the sense that their penalty is just and that they have learned something about themselves that will transform their behavior in the future.

In my Spring 2012 Executive Committee report I offered a few suggestions: first, with respect to raising awareness about the dangers of and responsibilities with respect to alcohol consumption and, second, with respect to continued measures to make students aware of the definition of plagiarism. Both of these remain relevant.

I append here some further general thoughts on the work of the committee:

It was with great pleasure that I met with members of the Yale College Dean's Advisory Council for a discussion on academic integrity. I was rather dismayed to learn, however, particularly dismayed to learn from a group with such a finely-tuned sense of life at Yale, what the student apprehension of the Executive committee seems to be. Perhaps misconception is inevitable given that all participants in the meetings of the Executive Committee are required to maintain strict confidentiality. I would like to say the following:

What to the casual reader of the semesterly report of the committee might seem like an arbitrary imposition of different sanctions for the same violation of the Undergraduate Regulations is hardly what takes place. There is a significant difference between a Freshman who makes a relatively minor error in the required documentation for a paper and the student who lifts great portions of a paper from the internet and presents them as his or her own, or someone who copies someone else's take home examination, or a student who in a premeditative attempt to cheat takes materials into an examination room.

My experience of the deliberations of the committee has been that of deeply serious, often agonizing consideration of every aspect of the case we have heard. We take all the evidence presented by both the student and the person making the charge into consideration. We review past, similar cases for precedent. We care deeply about every student who enters that room. I can only surmise that we are doing things right because one can never predict whether the student serving on the committee in any individual week will be more or less severe in relation to each case. The student often offers us a perspective we would otherwise be unable to have access to, filling us in on certain aspects of student life or practices, but there is no fundamental difference between the faculty, administrators, and student who serve in terms of the resolutions we reach.

Yes, the Executive Committee is committed to preserving the integrity of the university. When we see cases, as we have this year, for example which connect alcohol abuse and hazing, the organizations responsible can count on penalties commensurate with thoughtlessly putting one's fellow students at risk. But the task of the committee, as I and the previous chairs have viewed it, is hardly simply one of meting out punishment. We are committed to making an appearance before the Committee an educational process, to thinking through with students where things went wrong and why, to putting the student in touch with some of the considerable resources of Yale to bolster them in the future, to reminding them that close at hand are dedicated deans and expert help at Yale Health when that is relevant. And we are committed to doing all this with the most finely tuned sense of justice possible.

**Thanks:**

My special thanks to the hardworking members of the entire committee. The full hearings are long and difficult, I know.

I had the honor to work last fall side-by-side in the Coordinating Group with Professor Caleb Smith, our fact-finder, and Pamela George, the Secretary of the Committee. Caleb Smith's fine-tuned sense of justice, his careful, deliberate mode of weighing all factors, his respect for the students who come before us made working with him a great pleasure. There are no sufficient words to praise Pamela George's equal devotion to the integrity of Yale University and the well-being of its students. I am thoroughly in her debt for her painstaking attention to detail, her clarity, her great wisdom, and her untiring insistence on justice—her insistence that we get it just right. It is the wonderful insights and the specialized knowledge and understanding of the undergraduates serving alongside us, that so critically helps us to do so. Our thanks go out, therefore to Alexis Wise, BK '13, Katherine Aragon, TD '14 and Matthew Williams, BK '13-- who has served quite ably on the Committee for the past three years.

Profound thanks as well to those working behind the scenes: to Lisa Miller whose dedicated and meticulous work keeps the complex paperwork (and us) organized; to Susan Sawyer in the General Counsel's office, and to Dr. Lorraine Siggins and others we consult with regard to the mental health issues that face us. Each student brings an adviser along, usually the dean of his or her college. The Executive Committee lives with the problems of individual students once a week. The deans are there for them 24/7 with compassion, patience and wisdom that truly contribute to Yale's greatness. You all have my heartfelt thanks and admiration.

Carol Jacobs Chair of the Yale College Executive Committee 2011-2012 Professor German Language and Literature  
Birgit Baldwin Professor of Comparative Literature

### **Fall 2012 Chair Report Summaries FH (1 student)**

In a formal hearing, Senior, charged with Acts of Violence and Harassment for hitting another student at a party hosted by The Society of Book and Snake on Grove Street, had charges withdrawn.

### **PH (0)**

### **DWFH (51 students)**

2 Sophomores, charged with violating Drug regulations for smoking marijuana in Berkeley College, were reprimanded.

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Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for copying a portion of another student's paper, was given probation for the remainder of his time at Yale.

Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing an entire paper, was suspended for 2 terms.

Freshman, charged with Trespassing for jumping over a wall to gain access to Gryphon's pub at 204 York Street, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with violating alcohol regulations and Willful Property Damage for damaging the door to McClellan Hall while intoxicated, was reprimanded.

Junior, charged with violating Alcohol and Social Functions regulations for hosting a party at 31 High Street where alcohol was served to minors, including one freshman who had to be transported by ambulance to YNHH for intoxication, was reprimanded and required to submit a risk management plan signed by all members of organization.

Senior, charged with violating Alcohol and Social Functions regulations for hosting a party at 31 High Street where alcohol was served to minors, including one freshman who had to be transported by ambulance to YNHH for intoxication, was reprimanded and banned from facility. Organization required to submit risk management plan and not allowed to host opening days event in fall 2013.

Junior, charged with violating Alcohol and Social Functions regulations for hosting a party at 31 High Street where alcohol was served to minors, including one freshman who had to be transported by ambulance to YNHH for intoxication, was reprimanded and banned from facility. Organization required to submit risk management plan and not allowed to host opening days event in fall 2013 or hold leadership position in organization.

Sophomore, charged with violating Alcohol and Social Functions regulations for hosting a party at 31 High Street where alcohol was served to minors, including one freshman who had to be transported by ambulance to YNHH for intoxication, had charge withdrawn.

Senior, charged with violating Alcohol and Social Functions regulations for hosting a party at 31 High Street where alcohol was served to minors, including one freshman who had to be transported by ambulance to YNHH for intoxication, had charge withdrawn.

Junior, charged with violating Alcohol and Social Functions regulations for hosting a party at 31 High Street where alcohol was served to minors, including one freshman who had to be transported by ambulance to YNHH for intoxication, had charge withdrawn.

Sophomore, charged with violating Alcohol and Social Functions regulations for hosting a party at 31 High Street where alcohol was served to minors, including one freshman who had to be transported by ambulance to YNHH for intoxication, was reprimanded and banned from facility. Organization required to submit risk management plan and not allowed to host opening days event in fall 2013 or hold leadership position in organization.

Junior, charged with imperiling the integrity of the university for behavior while on tour with a singing group while being hosted by families abroad was reprimanded.

Senior, charged with violating alcohol regulations for two transports to YNHH for intoxication, had charge withdrawn and asked to meet with Yale Health.

Freshman, charged with Harassment, Intimidation or Coercion and Acts of Violence for verbally and physically abusing two Yale students at Gourmet Heaven on Broadway and again in front of Saybrook College, was reprimanded and required to submit letter of apology.

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Seniors, charged with Trespassing for trespassing on the roof of 355 Prospect Street, were reprimanded.

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Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing an entire paper, was suspended for 2 terms and required to apply for readmission.

Freshman, charged with violating alcohol regulations and defiance for drinking beer at the Yale bowl while underage and refusing to cooperate with police, was reprimanded.

Senior charged with violating alcohol regulations and defiance refusing to cooperate with police while intoxicated in Commons, in addition to being transported by AMR to YNHH from the same event, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with violating alcohol regulations for a second AMR transport to YNHH for intoxication, was reprimanded and asked to make appointment with Yale Health.

Senior (in his third time before the Executive Committee), charged with imperiling the integrity of the university for publicly urinating on a backpack at the Yale student tailgate party at 81 Derby Avenue, was placed on probation for two terms.

Senior captain charged with violating alcohol & social function regulations for hosting a club sports party where an underage freshman drank alcohol to the point of being transported to the hospital for intoxication, was reprimanded. Team asked to submit a risk management plan signed by all members and a letter of apology to transported student. Committee recommended to director that team be placed on probation for one year. Granted.

Senior captain charged with violating alcohol & social function regulations for hosting a club sports team party where an underage freshman drank alcohol to the point of being transported to the hospital for intoxication, was reprimanded. Team asked to submit a risk management plan signed by all members and a letter of apology to transported student. Committee recommended to director that team be placed on probation for one year. Granted.

Junior President of Fraternity charged with violating alcohol and social function regulations for hosting a party at 37 High Street where alcohol was served to minors, was reprimanded . One underage student had to be transported to the hospital for intoxication and two others to Yale Health Services. Fraternity sanctioned and asked to submit a risk management plan, reviewed by YCDO Student Affairs and Yale Police and signed by all members.

Senior, charged with Falsification of Documents for falsifying academic transcripts and resume submitted to UCS, was suspended for 4 terms.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for copying answers from another student on an exam, was suspended for 1 term.

Sophomore, charged with Falsification of Documents for possession of a false i.d., was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with theft for taking a marble sample from Beinecke Library, was reprimanded. Marble returned.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for copying one problem set textbook solution and submitting it as his own, was reprimanded.

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Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for copying one problem set textbook solution and submitting it as his own, was reprimanded.

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Junior charged with violating alcohol and drug regulations for intoxication and public urination in Rosenfeld Hall, was reprimanded. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, charged with Falsification of Documents for possession of a false i.d. while intoxicated and asleep behind Morse College, was reprimanded and asked to make appointment with Yale Health.

Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for stealing another student's take-home examination, was suspended for 2 terms and required to apply for readmission.

Senior, charged with Harassment, Improper use of email, Imperiling the integrity of the university and Defiance, for harassing other students via email and acting defiantly to her residential college dean, was placed on probation for the remainder of her time at Yale.

Senior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a paper, was suspended for 1 term.

Junior, charged with Harassment and Intimidation of a member of the Yale Community for threatening behavior in the Branford Dining Hall, was placed on probation for 2 terms.

Senior, charged with Academic Dishonesty and Defiance for plagiarizing an entire paper and lying to his residential college dean, was suspended for 2 terms and required to apply for readmission.

### **Referrals (49 students)**

Sophomore, 18 y.o., found intoxicated on Broadway. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, 19 y.o., found intoxicated on York Street. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Junior, 21 y.o., found intoxicated in Trumbull College. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated on Old Campus. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, 20 y.o., found intoxicated in Silliman College. AMR Transport not needed.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Lawrence Hall. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated at Phelps Gate. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Lanman Wright Hall. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 17 y.o., found intoxicated in Lanman Wright Hall. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in front of Toad's Place on York Street. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Davenport College. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Lanman Wright Hall. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, 20 y.o., found intoxicated in Davenport College. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Bingham Hall. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman sent an investigation letter for hazing, and then referred. Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Durfee Hall. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Senior, 21 y.o., found intoxicated in Silliman College. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Timothy Dwight College. AMR decided no transport needed.

Sophomore, 19 y.o., found with alcohol on his breath at a blue phone on his way from Toad's Place to Calhoun College. Transported to University Health Services by Yale Security for a shoulder injury complaint.

Senior, 22 y.o., found intoxicated on the corner of Park Street and Broadway. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Junior, 21 y.o., found intoxicated on the Morse-Stiles Walkway. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, 19 y.o., found intoxicated on the corner of York & Elm Streets. AMR Transport to YNHH. Freshman referred and reprimanded for violating alcohol regulations for drinking beer at the Yale bowl while underage.

Freshman referred and reprimanded for violating alcohol regulations for drinking beer at the Yale bowl while underage.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Timothy Dwight College. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated on the corner of Temple & Wall Streets. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Lanman Wright Hall. Transport by Yale Security to Yale Health Services.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Berkeley College. Transport by Yale Security to Yale Health Services.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated on Elm Street AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated on Elm Street AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated at Chapel and York Streets. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated on Cross Campus. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Durfee Hall. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated on Old Campus. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Lanman Wright Hall. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Junior, 20 y.o., reprimanded and referred for violating alcohol regulations for drinking while underage at a Yale tailgate party at 81 Central Ave.

Junior, 20 y.o., reprimanded and referred for imperiling the integrity of the university for public urination on Tower Parkway.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Lanman Wright Hall. Transported to Yale Health Services by Yale Security.

3 Freshmen, found intoxicated in Pierson College at the Inferno Halloween Dance. 3 freshmen transported to YNHH by AMR.

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Sophomore, 19 y.o., found intoxicated at the Yale Bowl. Transported to YNHH by AMR.

Sophomore, 19 y.o., found intoxicated at the Yale Bowl. Transported to YNHH by AMR.

Freshman found intoxicated at Harvard College. Transported to hospital by ambulance.

Freshman found intoxicated at Harvard College. Transported to hospital by ambulance.

Sophomore, 19 y.o., found intoxicated at Trumbull College. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated at the intersection of High St. and Elm St. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Vanderbilt Hall. AMR Transport to YNHH. Zeta Psi party

Senior, 22 y.o., found intoxicated on York Street. AMR Transport to YNHH. 4th transport

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Berkeley College. AMR Transport to YNHH.