

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT, SPRING 2016

The Yale College Executive Committee is composed of 3 tenured faculty, 3 junior faculty, 3 undergraduates and the Dean of Yale College Designee, with 3 (non-student) members serving as officers of the Committee: the Chair, the Fact-Finder and the Secretary. Yale undergraduates are called before the Executive Committee when they are charged with possible violations of the *Undergraduate Regulations*.

The process begins with the filing of a complaint that is carefully reviewed by the Coordinating Group, and if found to rise to the level of a violation of the Undergraduate Regulations based on evidence provided by the complainant (*e.g.*, plagiarized materials, forged documents, photographs or written statements describing events) or consultation with experts, results in the filing of a formal charge. If a complaint does not rise to the level of a violation, the case will be dismissed without charging. A complaint or inquiry can be filed by any adult member of the Yale community including faculty, staff and public safety personnel, but may not be filed directly by other Yale students.

Subsequently, during fact finding or questioning and response during a hearing, if the further evidence does not meet our standard of proof (a clear preponderance) as outlined in the *Undergraduate Regulations*, charges may be withdrawn. This means that a careful review of the case was warranted, and importantly, that the information contained in charging documents alone may not be sufficient to resolve the matter or reach a clear and fair decision in each case. Thus, any alternative process for handling formal complaints of violations of the Undergraduate Regulations that does not include in-depth and in-person fact-finding, interviews and the opportunity to question and hear from the charged student(s), may not be fully informed and also may not lead to the desired outcome of correcting the course for students facing challenges.

Cases often involve student organizations where several students are charged, however, upon questioning at a disposition or formal hearing, the specific roles of each charged student and student leader become clearer. Often, students present further evidence that they were not in leadership positions during the time of the alleged infraction or they were not actually the hosts of events where violations were found, which can lead to withdrawal of charges or different penalties for some students versus others. The hearing format allows for a better honing in on the students who are primarily responsible for a charged violation.

Dispositions Without a Formal Hearing

In the majority of cases, students admit the validity of the charge(s) made against them and choose a disposition without a formal hearing before the full Executive Committee. Disposition hearings, held weekly, make up the bulk of Committee work and are conducted by the Coordinating Group which is composed of the 3 officers of the Executive Committee (the Chair,

Fact-finder, and Secretary) and 1 of the 3 student members, who rotate in this capacity throughout the term. If the student contests the charge(s), then the case is considered further for a formal hearing before the full Executive Committee.

In the case of disposition without a formal hearing, the charged student appears before the Coordinating Group of the Executive Committee, along with his/her advisor (typically the Dean or Master of his/her residential college). The student is read guidelines for the proceedings and may present an opening oral statement followed by a question/answer period based on this statement and on the student's previously submitted written statement and other documentation such as police reports, e-mail correspondence, papers/exams and other records pertinent to the case. The student's advisor is invited to make a statement on the student's behalf followed by closing remarks by the student after which the Coordinating Group deliberates to reach a decision on the penalty. A full dismissal of charges is rare, and standard penalties include: reprimand, probation, suspension and expulsion. Students may also be required to meet additional conditions such as paying for damages to property, restricting use of specific buildings or entryways on campus, seeking counseling for substance abuse or mental health, submitting written reflections or formal written guidelines, (for example, a risk-management plan for groups and organizations hosting parties and other social events).

In Spring 2016 there were 41 dispositions without formal hearings involving 77 students; compared with 26 in Spring 2015 and 22 in Fall 2015. Several cases involved multiple (more than 2) students with one case involving 19 students and another involving 15 students. These charges were brought against social organizations or sports teams and involved the hosting of unauthorized events/parties with additional violations involving alcohol and hazing.

Formal Hearings

Although most students admit the validity of the charge(s) made against them and opt for a disposition without a Formal Hearing, if the student contests the charge(s) they will have their case heard by the full Executive Committee in a Formal Hearing. 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. The Chair also does not vote except in the case of a tie.

In Spring 2016 there were 2 formal hearings involving 2 students charged with academic dishonesty.

Penalties from dispositions and formal hearings were assigned to 79 students as follows:

5 suspensions, 5 probations, 62 reprimands and 1 degree withheld. In 6 instances, charges were withdrawn based on additional information and evidence that emerged during fact-finding and hearings.

Penalty Hearings (*replaced by Committee of Review to hear Appeals, in Fall 2015*)

In cases where students wish to dispute the penalty resulting from a disposition without a formal hearing, they may appeal, which is brought to a 3-person review panel called Committee of Review. One appeal was requested in late Spring 2016 and held-over for review in Fall 2016.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism

In Spring 2016 41 students were charged with academic dishonesty, almost twice the number of charges in the preceding semester (21) and similar to number of charges in the previous Spring term (45 in Spring 2015). Sixteen of the 41 academic dishonesty cases involved plagiarized submissions or inappropriate sharing on problem sets and homework assignments, with some cases involving a lack of clarity or understanding of instructor guidelines on sharing or use of online support materials.

Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty

Other charges of academic dishonesty included changes to answers on a quiz, consulting online sources and submitting identical assignments and suspected cheating during an exam.

Alcohol and Illicit Drugs

As stated in previous reports, the Executive Committee no longer receives referrals/ complaints for routine alcohol violations that involve no additional charges. These cases are now referred to AODHRI.

Discussions were initiated in Spring 2016 between the Executive Committee, Dean of Students and other university organizational leaders to consider coordinated efforts toward reducing the number of violations and referrals involving the over-consumption of alcohol.

In Spring 2016 there were 2 cases involving illicit drugs. One case involved marijuana and another case involved LSD with transport of the charged student to Yale New Haven Hospital.

Other Violations

Other cases in Spring 2016 involved charges of: defiance, imperil to the integrity of the university, falsification of documents/false I.D., intimidation, trespassing, and willful property damage.

Referred Cases

In Spring 2016 37 students were referred for intoxication with 35 of these students being transported to Yale New Haven Hospital or University Health Services. This is down only slightly from the 42 referrals in Fall 2015, but still high relative to the 24-25 transports reported for Spring 2014 and 2015. As with Fall 2015 the majority of referrals for intoxication were for freshman with a total of 18 out of 37. The number then drops to 4 and 3 for sophomores and juniors, respectively. The second largest group of students referred for intoxication during Spring 2016 were seniors (12 of 37).

Thanks

I would first like to thank Dean Jonathan Holloway and former Dean Mary Miller for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Yale College Executive Committee. It has been my honor to serve in this position for the past three years and I am truly grateful for the many insights and increased understanding that I have gained into undergraduate life at Yale from the perspectives of students, college deans, heads and other personnel who support student life. I am also grateful for the opportunity to have worked with the many wonderful student members who took time from their busy schedules to serve on Ex Comm. Thanks to Tracy Wang (SY '18), Susannah Krapf (SY '17) and Hans Kassier, (JE '16) for their invaluable service during Spring 2016.

I also thank the dedicated fact-finders for Ex Comm over the years-- Professor Andrew Papachristos for Spring 2016--and all of the faculty comprising the full Executive Committee. I am especially grateful for the outstanding service and commitment of Dean Pamela George, Secretary of the Executive Committee, who, along with Lisa Miller, Lisa Pitoniak and other staff in the Yale Dean's office organized cases, communications and handled the day-to-day operations that allowed the Executive Committee to function smoothly.

A very special thanks to Susan Sawyer of the Yale General Counsel's office whose expert input and guidance were truly invaluable, and to Dr. Lorraine Siggins for her expertise as a consultant to the Committee.

As always, I am humbled by the sincere dedication, compassion and commitment of the residential college deans, heads and other advisors who counsel and prepare students and provide support during their appearances before the Executive Committee.

Ruth Blake

Chair of the Yale College Executive Committee Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016

Professor of Geology & Geophysics

Professor of Forestry & Environmental Studies

Spring 2016

Formal Hearings

2 formal hearings, involving 2 students

Appeals

None heard in spring 2016. 1 case heard during the spring was appealed for consideration this fall.

Dispositions without Formal Hearings

41 dispositions without formal hearings, involving 77 students

Penalties from dispositions and formal hearings

The following penalties were assigned to 79 students:

*expulsions – 0
suspensions - 5
probations - 5
reprimands - 62
charge withdrawn – 6
withhold degree - 1*

Academic Dishonesty Charges, including pending cases

41 students were charged with Academic Dishonesty which resulted in:

*suspensions - 4
probations - 3
reprimands – 18
charge withdrawn – 11
withhold degree - 1
carried over to fall term – 4*

Plagiarism

16 of the 41 academic dishonesty cases were plagiarism which resulted in:

*suspensions - 3
probations - 0
reprimands – 9*

charges withdrawn – 2
withhold degree - 0
carried over to the fall term – 2

Other cases of academic dishonesty

The 25 remaining academic dishonesty cases did not involve plagiarism and included:

- 17 Collaborated on an assignment*
- 2 Changed answers on a returned exam and then requested regrading*
- 2 Copied problem set solutions from prior year and submitted as own*
- 1 Referred to phone during an exam*
- 1 Double submission of paper*
- 1 Showed correct exam answer with incorrect calculations*
- 1 Suspicious behavior during an exam, left exam room five times*

Referred Cases

37 students were referred.

37 of the 37 cases involved students who were intoxicated; 35 were transported to YNHH or University Health Services.

Spring 2016 Chair Report Summaries

Formal Hearings

In a formal hearing, Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a homework assignment, had charge withdrawn.

In a formal hearing, Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for submitting identical problem sets to another student, was reprimanded.

Dispositions without Formal Hearings

Senior, charged with violating alcohol and social function regulations for plans to host a party where alcohol would be served to minors, was reprimanded.

Senior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a paper, had charges withdrawn.

Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a final paper, was suspended for 2 terms.

Junior, charged with Falsification of Documents for possession of a fake i.d., was reprimanded.

Sophomore President of a society, charged with violating alcohol regulations for hosting an unregistered party at 395 Crown Street, had charge withdrawn.

Sophomore, charged with Misconduct during a formal process for violating the terms of his suspension, was placed on suspension for 1 term.

Senior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a problem set, had charge withdrawn.

Sophomore, charged with violating alcohol regulations and Willful Property Damage for kicking out a window in Vanderbilt Hall while intoxicated, was reprimanded.

Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for suspicious behavior during an exam, had charge withdrawn.

Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for showing correct answers on an exam without corresponding correct calculations, was placed on 2 terms suspension.

3 Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a problem set, were reprimanded.

Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a problem set, was reprimanded.

Senior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a problem set, was reprimanded.

Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for submitting a significantly identical lab report as another student, was placed on probation for 2 terms.

Senior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a problem set, was reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a problem set, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a paper, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with violating drug regulations for possession of marijuana in Timothy Dwight College, was reprimanded.

Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for changing his answers on a quiz and submitting it for regrading, was reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with Interference with University functions, Defiance and Harassment and Intimidation for disrupting a lecture, was reprimanded. The charges of Harassment and Intimidation were withdrawn.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for submitting a nearly identical lab report to 2 other students, was reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for submitting a nearly identical lab report to 2 other students, was reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for submitting a nearly identical lab report to 2 other students, had charge withdrawn.

Freshman, charged with Defiance, Trespassing and violating alcohol regulations for disruptive behavior in Durfee Hall while intoxicated and not being cooperative with a Freshman Counselor, was reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with Defiance and Imperiling the integrity of the university for urinating and disruptive behavior in the Good Nature Market at 15 Broadway while intoxicated, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a paper, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for submitting a lab report where some parts were identical to another student's, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with Defiance for not making contact nor scheduling an appointment with a substance use counselor after multiple referrals, was reprimanded.

2 Sophomores, charged with Academic Dishonesty for submitting identical problem sets, were reprimanded.

Senior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a paper, was suspended for 2 terms.

1 of 2 sophomores, charged with Academic Dishonesty for submitting nearly identical problem sets, was reprimanded.

1 of 2 Sophomores, charged with Academic Dishonesty for submitting nearly identical problem sets, was placed on probation for 2 terms.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for turning in a near-identical post-lab assignment to another student, was placed on probation for 2 terms.

Senior, charged with Willful Property Damage and imperiling the integrity of the university for unauthorized use of the kitchen of the Jonathan Edwards dining hall, was placed on probation for the remainder of his time at Yale.

Senior, charged with imperiling the integrity of the university for an unauthorized party in SSS 405, was reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for copying solutions to problem sets from the previous year and submitting them as her own work, was reprimanded.

15 Seniors, charged with violating alcohol regulations, defiance and imperiling the integrity of the university for an unauthorized party in SSS 405, were reprimanded.

Junior, charged with violating drug regulations in Branford College after taking LSD and being transported to YNHH by AMR, was placed on probation for the remainder of his time at Yale.

Senior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for referring to his phone which was connected to the internet during an exam, had degree held until September 2016.

19 members of a team, charged with Trespassing, Willful Property Damage and violating Alcohol and Social Functions regulations for an unauthorized party in Farnam Hall where property was damaged and alcohol was consumed, were reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a final paper, was suspended for 4 terms.

Senior, charged with Trespassing & Defiance for staying overnight in the DMCA, was reprimanded.

Referrals

Sophomore, 19 y.o., found intoxicated and argumentative at Yale Health. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Welch Hall. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, age not reported, found intoxicated in Wright Hall. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated on the Elm Street side of Battel Chapel. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Bingham Hall. AMR transport to St. Raphael Hospital.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Woolsey Hall. AMR transport to YNHH.

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

Senior, 22 y.o., found intoxicated at 62 Lake Place. AMR evaluated student, but not transported.

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Davenport College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Senior, 21 y.o. found intoxicated in Timothy Dwight College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Welch Hall. AMR transport to YNHH.

Junior, 21 y.o., found intoxicated at 26 Lynwood Place. AMR transport to YNHH.

Senior, 22 y.o., found intoxicated at the entrance to Davenport College. AMR evaluated student, but not transported.

Senior, 21 y.o. found intoxicated and injured in Timothy Dwight College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Senior, 25 y.o., found intoxicated on the fire escape at 224 Park Street. AMR transport to YNHH.

Senior, 21 y.o., found intoxicated at 17 Edgewood Avenue. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in the alley way near Off Broadway Theater located at 41 Broadway. AMR transport to YNHH.

Senior, 20 y.o., found intoxicated in Branford College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Senior, 22 y.o., found intoxicated in Ezra Stiles College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in front of Silliman College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Calhoun College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated (drug) by "edible marijuana butter" in Bingham Hall. AMR transport to YNHH.

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

Senior, 21 y.o., found intoxicated at Old Campus during the Spring Fling event. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated at Old Campus during the Spring Fling event. AMR transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, 19 y.o., found intoxicated at Old Campus during the Spring Fling event. AMR transport to YNHH.

Senior, 21 y.o., found intoxicated at Old Campus during the Spring Fling event. Transported by Maria Bouffard to Yale Health.

Sophomore, 21 y.o., found intoxicated at Old Campus during the Spring Fling event. Transported by Maria Bouffard to Yale Health.

Senior, 22 y.o., found intoxicated at Old Campus during the Spring Fling event. AMR transport to YNHH.

Junior, 20 y.o., found intoxicated at Old Campus during the Spring Fling event. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated at Old Campus during the Spring Fling event. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated at Old Campus during the Spring Fling event. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Timothy Dwight College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Berkeley College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Senior, 23 y.o., found intoxicated in Saybrook College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Junior, 22 y.o., found intoxicated in Saybrook College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated at Welch Hall. AMR transport to YNHH.