

OFFICE OF STUDENT JUDICIAL AFFAIRS (OSJA)

<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/osja>



ANNUAL REPORT 2007 - 2008

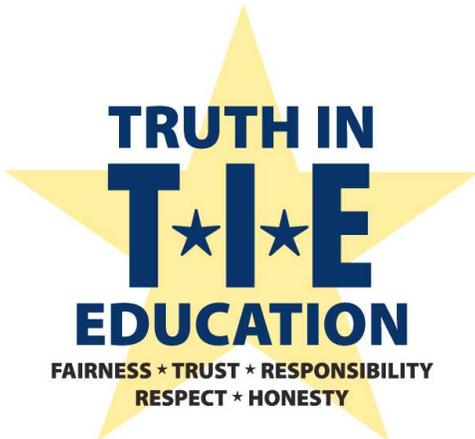


UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA

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Office of Student Judicial Affairs Mandate

The Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA) is mandated to deal with issues around the Code of Student Behaviour. Approaching the Code in terms of awareness, prevention and student discipline, the OSJA strives to ensure that students understand the expectations placed upon them by the Code and are able to participate freely and fully in the university community.



The OSJA is responsible for engaging in prevention activities, most notably the Truth In Education (TIE) academic integrity program. Activities include presentations to classes, departments, and other groups as requested, annual production of the *Academic Integrity Handbook for Instructors and TAs* and maintaining an academic integrity website, found at www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/tie.

When students do engage in behaviour that violates the Code of Student Behaviour, one of the two Discipline Officers in the OSJA investigates the allegations and makes decisions according to the procedures set out in the Code. Faculty Associate Deans (mostly academic offences) and Campus Security Services or Unit Directors (non-academic offences) refer files with recommendations for sanctions. The Discipline Officer meets with the accused student(s), investigates the complaint if the facts are in dispute, then makes a decision on whether the student violated the Code and, if so, what sanctions are warranted, using the recommendation from the Complainant as a starting point.

Organization

Deborah Eerkes is the Director of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. In this position she administers the office, runs the preventative programs and is one of the two Discipline Officers. She shares the caseload with Dr. George Buck (Faculty of Education), Discipline Officer. In March 2008 Theresa Everest joined the office as the part time Administrative Assistant.

Cases

The attached charts reflect the number of cases completed in the Discipline Office between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. The number is calculated based on the completion date of the discipline decision. Note that the statistics reported in this document reflect only the cases referred to the OSJA and do not provide total numbers for Code of Student Behaviour violations.

Over the year, the two Discipline Officers rendered a total of 63 discipline decisions. Sanctions imposed included 4 written reprimands, 2 fines, 11 students were required to pay restitution, 35 students were placed on conduct probation by the Discipline Officer, 33 students were suspended and 4 were expelled. Charges were dismissed in three (3) cases. It was decided that the sanctions imposed by the Complainant before referring to the OSJA were sufficient in three (3) other cases and no further sanctions were applied. Of those 63 cases, three were appealed to the University Appeal Board (UAB) and, of those appeals, two were denied and one was varied.

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Trends

The OSJA completed a total of 63 case files for the 2007/08 academic year, a 3% increase from the previous year. Faculties submitted approximately three quarters of our case files, and the remaining quarter came from Campus Security Services (CSS). This is a reversal from last year, in which two-thirds of the cases were submitted by CSS and only one third by Faculties. Furthermore, the number of cases from Faculties doubled over the 2007/08 year, from 20 in 2006/07 to 40.

The vast majority of academic cases are handled at the Faculty level and OSJA does not become involved. Appropriately, only the most egregious cases and second offences are sent in with recommendations for severe sanctions. These cases tended to be more complex in nature and often involved more than one charge. Increasingly, there have been files forwarded to the OSJA in which the student has allegedly engaged in conduct that comprises both academic and non-academic offences. This has required streamlining of processes between Campus Security and the Faculty so that the offences can be adjudicated simultaneously rather than laying charges in separate files.

Gender seems to play a role in non-academic offences: 21 out of 24 students who committed non-academic offences were male, three were female. Academic offences were closely matched between males (16) and females (18). Of the five cases in which both academic and non-academic offences were committed, four of the students were male.

Charges included plagiarism (24), cheating (13), misuse of confidential materials (6), inappropriate behaviour in a professional program (1), disruption (1), violation of safety or dignity (8), damage to property (10), unauthorized use of facilities, equipment, materials, services or resources (6), breach of rules external to the Code (6), failure to show identification (1), misrepresentation of facts (7) and participation in an offence (3). Only three cases resulted in no charges.

University Community and Beyond

Academic Integrity Guides for Students – In recognition of the need for information on academic integrity resources specifically for graduate students, the OSJA produced *A Guide to Academic Integrity for Graduate Students* and distributed it to every University of Alberta graduate student. A similar publication, *The Undergraduate Student's Guide to Academic Integrity*, was produced in electronic form only. Both of these guides are posted on the OSJA website at www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/osja.

Academic Discipline Meetings – The two Discipline Officers participated in two meetings for the key stakeholders in academic discipline, including Associate Deans, the Dean of Students, the Student OmbudService and the Appeals Coordinator. The meetings provide a forum for open communication between those involved in academic discipline and to address procedural issues that arise in our work.

On the Edge – Deborah continues to work with the graduate student ombudsperson on our column, entitled “On the Edge” published on the OSJA website. Using fictional scenarios, it is designed to raise awareness among graduate students about the Code of Student Behaviour and the Research and Scholarship Integrity Policy, as well as issues arising from the Student-Supervisor relationship. This year we also included one column a month aimed at undergraduate students.

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Graduate ethics training program – Deborah worked with FGSR and the graduate student ombudsperson to generate new scenarios for the graduate ethics WebCT program, based on student feedback. The number of scenarios in the program is now double what it was last year.

Guidelines for disclosure of information– Deborah worked with General Counsel, the Information and Privacy Officer and the Appeals Coordinator to generate guidelines for when and how confidential information generated in discipline processes can be shared, in an effort to create a practical guide to the FOIPP Act.

Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC) – Deborah continues to work closely with the Dean of Students’ office, Campus Security and the Student OmbudService throughout the process of bringing proposed Code of Student Behaviour changes, arising from discussions with key stakeholders throughout the year, through the proper channels for approval.

Presentations – Deborah gave a total of 25 presentations on academic integrity or the Code of Student Behaviour this year. Presentations on campus included the International Centre, University Teaching Services, Department of Biological Sciences, English and Film Studies classes, Engineering 100 classes (both at UofA and the Grant MacEwan Engineering transfer program), and Library and Information Studies (LIS).

Professional associations – Deborah continued her term as President of Canadian Academic Integrity and Student Judicial Affairs (CAISJA), a Division under the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services (CACUSS). She also sits on the Advisory Board for the Center for Academic Integrity, where the University of Alberta has been an active member since 2001.

Conferences – Deborah sat on the organizing committee for the Civil Campus Conference along with representatives from Norquest, and MacEwan college. In addition, she presented at the Student Advisors’ Conference in March and the CACUSS conference in June.

Internal partnerships – Deborah participated in projects and events across campus, including judging in a case competition for Residence Services, providing an in-service for Student Counselling Services, providing a session called “Deconstructing Plagiarism” for the “Don’t Cancel that Class” program sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Students, strategizing with the International Centre for ways to connect the international student population with academic integrity resources, and working with General Counsel on various projects.

Emergency planning and business continuity - In conjunction with University Student Services, the OSJA is developing a plan for ensuring business as usual in the face of emergencies or unforeseen circumstances.

The OSJA looks forward to continued collaboration with other units within the University. The more we can forge ties with the University community, the stronger our prevention network will become.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah Eerkes
Director

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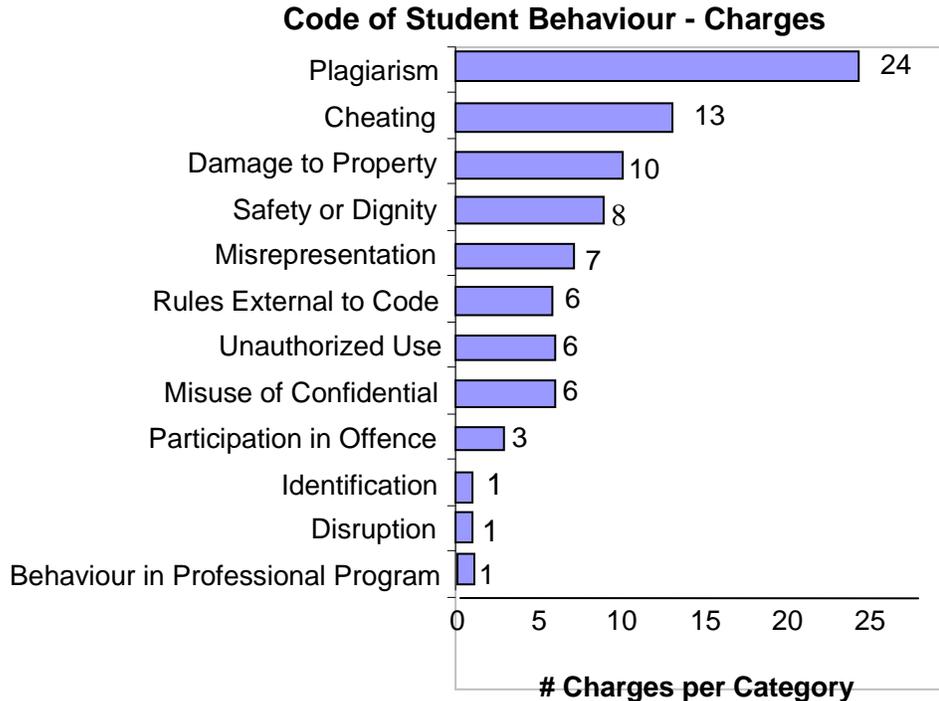
2007-2008 Statistics

1. Origin of Cases

Complainant	Number of Cases Completed		
	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences		2	3
Arts	12	6	28
Augustana			3
Business	2		
Education	7		
Engineering	13	5	7
FGSR	1	2	
Native Studies	1		
Science	9	6	14
Residence Services	2		3
Campus Security Services	16	40	23
TOTAL	63	61	81

2. Charges under the Code

Some cases contain multiple charges against a student, therefore the total number of charges (84) is higher than the number of cases (63).



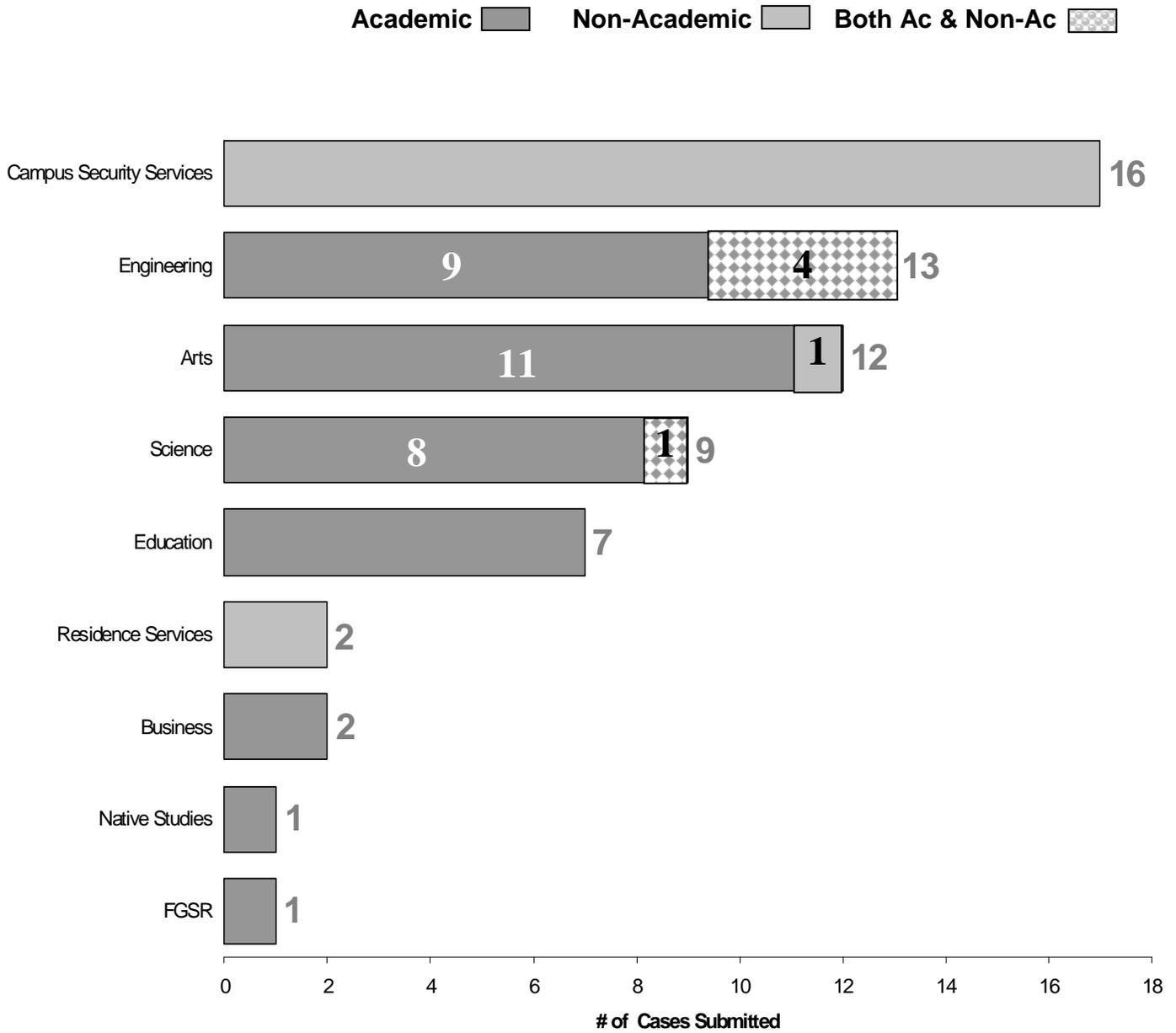
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3. Disposition of Decisions of the Discipline Officer

SANCTION (In addition to sanctions already imposed by Deans and/or Unit Directors)*	Number imposed			
	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	
Expulsion	4	3	2	*Some cases result in multiple sanctions, therefore the total number of sanctions is greater than the number of cases.
Suspension	33	13	42	
Conduct Probation	35	42	37	
Fine	2	4	7	
Suspend Degree	-	-	-	
Exclusion	-	1	1	
Suspension University Resources	-	-	3	
Restitution	11	13	1	
Reprimand	4	6	7	
Charges upheld; no add'l sanction	3	1	4	
Charges dismissed; no sanction	3	5	4	
Total Sanctions	95	88	100	

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4. Cases by Complainant



Note: Several cases involved misconduct that was both academic and non-academic in nature. These cases resulted in charges under both categories.

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5. Case Type by Gender

CASE TYPE	Gender		Total
	Female	Male	
ACADEMIC	18	16	34
NON-ACADEMIC	3	21	24
BOTH AC & NON-AC	1	4	5
Total	22	41	63

6. Discipline Officers

Discipline Officer	Number of Cases completed		
	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
Deborah Eerkes	33	29	58
George Buck	30	25	9
Joint Investigation	-	7	-
Jim Bohun	-	-	4
Brian Nielsen	-	-	10
Total Cases	63	61	81