

OSJA ANNUAL REPORT
2010/11

OFFICE OF STUDENT
JUDICIAL AFFAIRS (OSJA)

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



ANNUAL REPORT
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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.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 University of Alberta Protective Services or Unit Directors (non-academic offences) refer files with recommendations for sanctions. The Discipline Officer meets with the accused student, 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

Throughout the 2010/11 academic year, Deborah Eerkes was the Director of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. In this position she administers the office, oversees the preventative programs and is one of the two Discipline Officers. She was seconded part-time into Residence Services to review the residence discipline system and rewrite the Residence Community Standards policy and procedures. Chris Hackett was seconded into the OSJA as full-time Discipline Officer for the year. He also took over the academic integrity programming. The Administrative Assistant position was eliminated following the retirement of T. Everest.

Discipline Cases

The attached charts reflect the number of cases completed in the Discipline Office between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. 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 64 discipline decisions. Sanctions imposed included 7 written reprimands, 1 fine, 1 suspension of University services, 5 students were required to pay restitution, 54 students were placed on conduct probation by the Discipline Officer, 11 students were suspended, 7 students were excluded and 1 was expelled. Charges were dismissed in five (5) cases. Of those 64 cases, four (4) were appealed to the University Appeal Board (UAB); two of those appeals were denied, two were varied.

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Trends

The OSJA completed a total of 64 case files for the 2010/11 academic year, nearly identical to the previous year. Faculties submitted approximately 20% of our case files, and the remaining 80% came from University of Alberta Protective Services.

The vast majority of academic cases are handled at the Faculty level and OSJA does not become involved. Appropriately, only the most egregious cases are referred to the OSJA with recommendations for severe sanctions. These cases tended to be more complex in nature and often involved second offences. Because the statistics cited herein apply strictly to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs, any trends identified in terms of academic misconduct must not be generalized to the entire University. At the writing of this report, it was not known how many students were charged with academic offences in 2010/11 that did not involve a referral to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

Gender seems to play a role in non-academic offences: 44 out of 51 students who committed non-academic offences were male, six were female. Academic offences also showed a difference between males (10) and females (3).

Of the 64 cases in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs, students in their first and second years of study were more likely than other students to commit offences under the Code. Nineteen (19) first-year students, 16 second-year students, 11 third-year students, 4 fourth-year students, 5 fifth-year students, and 5 graduate students were referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs last year. In addition, 4 other students who were in Open Studies, after degree programs or the Faculty of Extension, or were a Student Group, were required to meet with a Discipline Officer.

Charges included plagiarism (5), cheating (5), violation of safety or dignity (32), damage to property (16), unauthorized use of facilities, equipment, materials, services or resources (10), breach of rules external to the Code (35), failure to show identification (1), alcohol provision (1), misrepresentation of facts (9) and participation in an offence (3). In addition, a total of 15 charges were dismissed, either because the student was found not to have committed the offence or the offence did not fall within the reach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

The OSJA tracked alcohol-related offences for the third year. Of the 64 cases, 4 were directly related to alcohol (that is, violations of the Alberta Liquor and Gaming Act) and 16 were indirectly related to alcohol, meaning that students reported committing the offence while intoxicated. An additional 8 cases involved illegal drug possession or use.

Breaking laws external to the Code of Student Behaviour is also a violation of the Code where a tangible link can be drawn to the University or University Activities. In the 10/11 academic year, the OSJA adjudicated 24 cases with 35 charges of breach of external rules. External rules ranged from the Criminal Code of Canada (24), Controlled Substances Act (8), Alberta Gaming and Liquor Act (3). Criminal Code violations included mischief, fraud, forgery theft, trespassing, falsification, criminal breach of trust, sexual assault, and voyeurism.

On a related note, the number of students suspended or expelled for purely non-academic offences dropped to 2 this year, compared to 7 last year and 2 in 2008/09. Sanctions with academic repercussions, such as suspension or expulsion, are reserved for only the most severe non-academic cases in which the safety of the community is compromised.

University Community and Beyond

Academic Integrity Handbook for Instructors and TAs – This Handbook was originally written in 2003 as a supplement to the Code of Student Behaviour and a guide to promoting academic integrity. In 2010/11, the OSJA distributed 5,362 of these handbooks to professors, sessionals and teaching assistants in every academic unit.

Academic Integrity Task Force – C. Hackett chaired the task force that implemented a follow up Academic Integrity Survey from the one conducted in 2003. Members of the task force included students, professors, administrators, representatives from the library and others. The survey took place in October/November 2010 and enjoyed a significant increase in responses over the last one. The final report from the Academic Integrity Task Force is posted on the Truth In Education website at www.ualberta.ca/tie

Residence Community Standards – D. Eerkes spent much of the year working with Residence Services to bring the new Community Standards, featuring a Restorative Justice program, through the governance process. The final policy was approved by the Board of Governors in their February 2011 meeting. An implementation committee was struck to design training and assessment tools for the September 2011 start of the program.

Presentations – D. Eerkes and C. Hackett gave a total of 55 presentations on academic integrity, the Code of Student Behaviour and Student-Supervisor Conflict this year. Presentations on campus included the International Centre, FGSR, Lister, Faculty of Nursing, Rehabilitation Medicine, Department of Biological Sciences, English and Film Studies classes, and the Faculty of Engineering (both at U of A and the Grant MacEwan Engineering transfer program).

Academic Discipline Meeting – The two Discipline Officers organized and participated in a meeting for the key stakeholders in academic discipline, including Associate Deans, the Dean of Students, the Student OmbudService and the Appeals Coordinator. The meeting provides a forum for open communication between those involved in academic discipline and to address procedural issues that arise in our work. The focus of this meeting was to discuss academic issues that arise off-campus, such as in field schools or exchange programs.

Non-Academic Discipline Meeting - The two Discipline Officers organized and participated in a meeting for the key stakeholders in non-academic discipline, including University of Alberta Protective Services, the Dean of Students, the Sexual Assault Centre, 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.

Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC) – The Discipline Officer holds an Ex Officio position on CLRC, working closely with other CLRC members to propose policy updates and changes.

Internal partnerships

D. Eerkes co-Chaired the Coalition for Action on High Risk Drinking (CAHRD), which involves representatives from the Dean of Students' Office, Campus Security Services, University Health Centre, Residence Services, the Alcohol Policy Review Committee, the Student OmbudService, Risk Management, the Students' Union, and the Addictions and Mental Health Research Lab, with input from Responsible Hospitality Edmonton and Alberta Health Services (formerly the Alberta



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Addictions and Drug Abuse Commission). A self-assessment tool, called Check Yourself, for students to gauge their drinking habits in relation to social norms and personal harms was introduced in Fall 2009 and continued this past year. In addition, a Terms of Reference for the Coalition was developed. It was decided that the Coalition would be mainly a data gathering and reporting body, which would be available for consultation when necessary, such as in the development of the new alcohol policy. Data was gathered from CAHRD members and others to generate an annual report . The final report will be released in Fall 2011 and posted on www.ualberta.ca/checkyourself.

As a follow up to an initiative from 2008, the OSJA convened a working group to address questions of disclosure and privacy within disciplinary (Code of Student Behaviour) processes and after decisions under the Code have been completed. The group includes representatives from the Information and Privacy Office, the Registrar's Office, Academic Standards Committee, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Protective Services, University Governance and General Counsel.

The OSJA consulted on the Harassment and Discrimination Policy Review, Travel Policy, issues of information collection, disclosure and privacy for Cortona, Campus Recreation Disciplinary Appeals and Student Group discipline issues.

The OSJA hosted webinars for members of the University Community on restorative justice, privacy and disclosure, and cyber-bullying.

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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1. Origin of Cases

Complainant	Number of Cases Completed		
	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09
Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences	2	1	0
Arts	0	4	11
Augustana	2	1	1
Business	1	0	0
Education	0	1	2
Engineering	2	1	2
FGSR	0	1	0
Pharmacy	1	0	0
Physical Education and Recreation	0	1	1
Science	3	3	5
Registrar	2	0	0
Residence Services	0	3	18
University of Alberta Protective Services (Campus Security Services)	51	47	43
TOTAL	64	63	83

2. Charges under the Code Some cases contain multiple charges against a student, therefore the total number of charges (107) is higher than the number of cases (64).

Charge	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09
Plagiarism	5	6	15
Cheating	5	4	10
Misuse of Confidential Materials	0	0	0
Inappropriate Behaviour in Professional Program	0	0	0
Disruption	0	1	3
Discrimination	0	1	0
Dissemination of Malicious Material	4	0	0
Unfounded Allegations	0	0	0
Violations of Safety or Dignity	32	18	15
Damage to Property	16	11	4
Unauthorized Use of Facilities, Equip., Materials, Services or Resources	10	5	21
Alcohol Provision	1	1	0
Breach of Rules External	35	66	38
Identification	1	2	4
Misrepresentation of Facts	9	6	6
Participation in an Offence	3	4	0
Bribery	1	0	0
Charge Dismissed	15	21	4
Total Charges Upheld	107	125	116

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3. Disposition of Decisions of the Discipline Officer

Some cases result in multiple sanctions, therefore the total number of sanctions is greater than the number of cases.

SANCTION (In addition to sanctions already imposed by Deans and/or Unit Directors)	Number imposed		
	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09
Expulsion	1	6	2
Suspension	11	15	21
Conduct Probation	54	40	52
Fine	1	18	30
Exclusion	7	9	0
Suspension University Resources	1	4	0
Restitution	5	9	4
Reprimand	7	2	3
Charges upheld; no additional sanction	0	2	2
Charges dismissed; no sanction	5	4	4
Total Sanctions	87	120	118

4. Case by Type and Gender

5. Discipline Officers

	Academic	Non-Academic	TOTAL
MALE	10	44	54
FEMALE	3	6	9
GROUP	0	1	1
TOTAL	13	51	64

Discipline Officer	Number of Cases completed		
	10/11	09/10	08/09
Deborah Eerkes	39	26	47
Chris Hackett	25	37	-
George Buck	0	0	36
Total Cases	64	63	83

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5. Case Type by Student Year of Program

