



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA

OFFICE OF STUDENT JUDICIAL AFFAIRS (OSJA)

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



ANNUAL REPORT

2012/13 Academic Year

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.tie.ualberta.ca.



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 2012/13 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. Chris Hackett was Discipline Officer and Academic Integrity program coordinator. In addition, Dr. Ed Blackburn joined the OSJA as a temporary Discipline Officer for cases in which both Mr. Hackett and Ms. Eerkes had a potential conflict.

DISCIPLINE CASES

The following charts reflect cases completed in the OSJA between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. In order to bring the statistics into line with those collected by University Governance, the numbers have been calculated using the appeal deadline as a measure. In other words, the cases counted in this report include those in which the appeal deadline falls between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013. For comparison purposes, the two preceding years have also been recalculated to reflect the reporting change. 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.

Fig. 1 Discipline Officers three year comparison

Discipline Officer	Number of Cases completed		
	12/13	11/12	10/11
D. Eerkes	27	36	39
C. Hackett	20	27	28
E. Blackburn	4	-	-
Total Cases	51	63	67



DECISIONS

Over the year, the three Discipline Officers rendered a total of 51 discipline decisions. Sanctions imposed included 3 written reprimands, 3 fines, 2 students were required to pay restitution, 34 students were placed on conduct probation by the Discipline Officer, 16 students were suspended, 6 students were excluded and 2 were expelled. Charges were dismissed in two (2) cases.

Fig. 2 Disposition of Decisions of the Discipline Officer three year comparison Note: 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		
		2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
Expulsion		2	6	0
Suspension		16	13	13
Conduct Probation		34	47	58
Fine		3	2	3
Exclusion		6	2	7
Suspension University Resources		0	2	1
Restitution		2	9	6
Reprimand		3	10	7
Charges upheld; no additional sanction		1	2	0
Charges dismissed; no sanction		2	2	5
Total Sanctions		66	91	95

Of the 51 cases, five (5) were appealed to the University Appeal Board (UAB); two of those appeals were denied, one was varied and two are still pending.

TRENDS

The Discipline Officers completed a total of 51 case files for the 2012/13 academic year. This reflects a significant decrease of 19% from the previous year. While it is only speculation, the decrease is likely due to diversion of cases that would have previously been addressed under the Code of Student Behaviour into other programs, such as the Residence restorative justice program and Helping Individuals At Risk (HIAR).

The majority of academic discipline 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 tend to be more complex in nature and often involve second offences. Because the statistics cited herein apply strictly to the OSJA, any trends identified in terms of academic misconduct must not be generalized to the entire University. For a total number of academic offences that did not involve a referral to the Discipline Officer, please refer to the Appeals Coordinator's report from University Governance.

Fig. 3 Origin of Cases three year comparison

Complainant	Number of Cases Completed		
	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
ALES	1	2	2
Arts	1	4	1
Augustana	0	0	2
Business	1	2	1
Education	1	0	0
Engineering	0	4	2
FGSR	2	1	0
Medicine and Dentistry	0	1	0
Pharmacy	1	0	1
Phys Educ and Rec	1	0	0
Science	8	5	3
Registrar	0	0	2
Residence Services	1	0	0
UAPS	33	45	53
TOTAL	51	64	67

Faculties submitted one third of our case files, and the remaining two thirds came from University of Alberta Protective Services and Residence Services.

Gender

Gender seems to play a role in non-academic offences: 30 out of 34 students who committed non-academic offences were male, four were female. There was virtually no gender difference in academic offences, where females committed 8 and males committed 9 of the academic offences . The case type category of “Both” indicates cases in which both academic and non-academic sections of the Code were violated, a rare occurrence, but one that bears documenting.

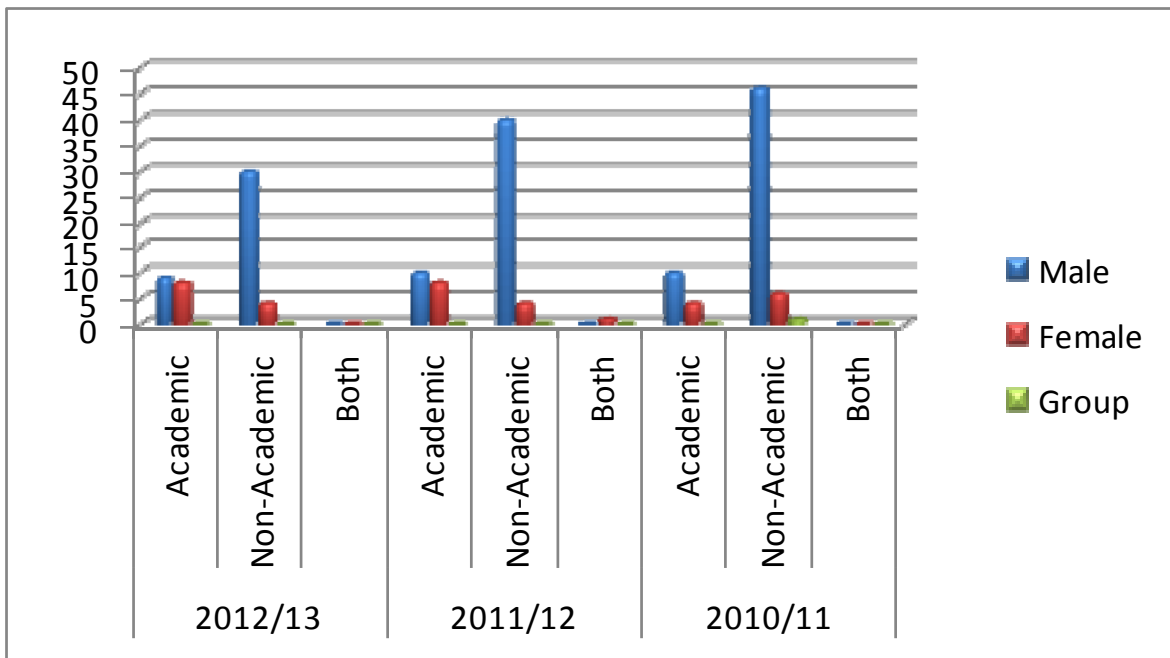


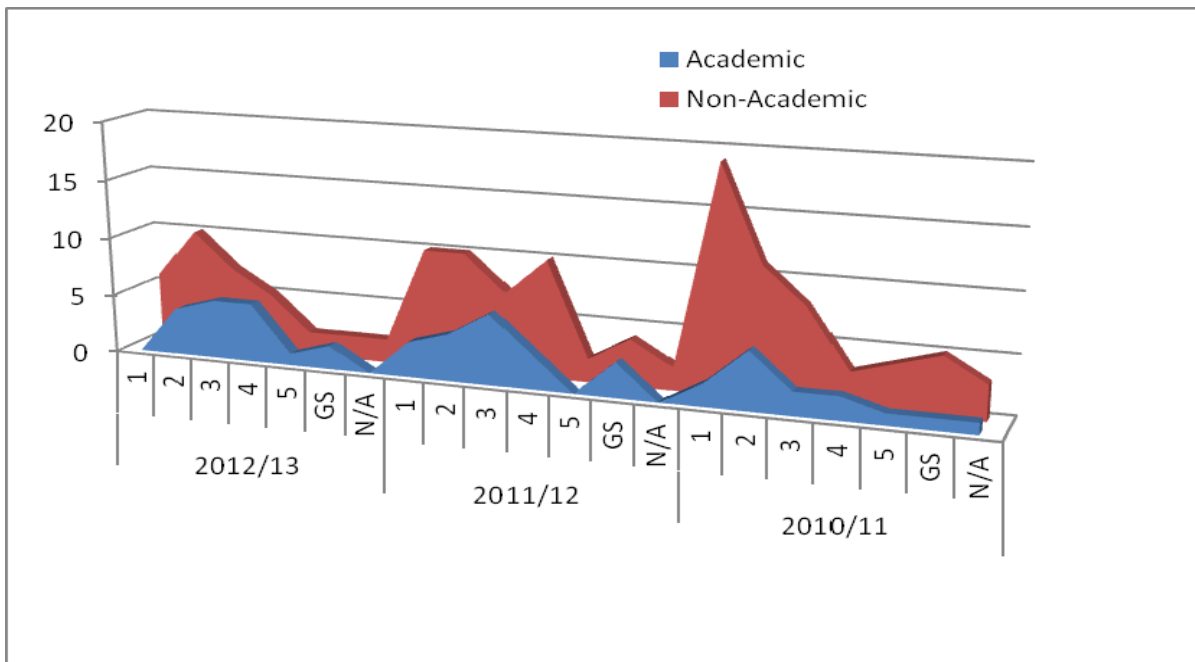
Fig. 4 Case by Type and Gender three year comparison





Year of Program

Of the 51 cases in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs, fewer first-year students violated the Code than last year. Six (6) first-year students (as compared to 14 last year) were referred to the Discipline Officer for a decision. Of those six first-year students, all of them came through UAPS for non-academic charges. In addition, 14 second-year students, 13 third-year students, 10 fourth-year students, 3 fifth-year students, and 4 graduate students were referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs last year. Two other files related to students who were in Open Studies, after degree programs or the Faculty of Extension, or were a Student Group.



Charges included plagiarism (6), cheating (11), disruption (1), violation of safety or dignity (23), damage to property (12), unauthorized use of facilities, equipment, materials, services or resources (13), misrepresentation of facts (4), refusal to show Identification (1), and participation in an offence (1). In addition, a total of 11 charges were dismissed, either because the student was found not to have committed the offence or the offence did not fall within the authority of the Code of Student Behaviour. Finally, it was decided this year, on advice from General Counsel, that it was unnecessary to use the External Rules when one or more of the other Code charges applied. As a result, there were no charges of Breach of Rules External to the Code.

Fig.6 Charges under the Code three year comparison Some cases contain multiple charges against a student, therefore the total number of charges (73) is higher than the number of cases (51).

Charge	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
Plagiarism	6	4	7
Cheating	11	17	5
Inapprop. Behav. in Prof. Prgm.	0	3	1
Disruption	1	2	1
Discrimination	0	0	0
Dissemination of Malicious Material	0	0	4
Violations of Safety or Dignity	23	14	31
Retaliation	0	1	0
Damage to Property	12	7	16
Unauthorized Use	13	10	9
Alcohol Provision	0	0	1
Breach of Rules External	0	33	37
Identification	1	0	1
Misrepresentation of Facts	4	2	7
Participation in an Offence	1	4	1
Bribery	1	0	1
Student Groups Appendix 2	0	8	0
Charge Dismissed	11	23	5
Total Charges Upheld	73	105	122

Alcohol and Drugs

The OSJA also tracks alcohol-related offences. Of the 51 cases, none were directly related to alcohol (that is, violations of the Alberta Liquor and Gaming Act) and 13 were indirectly related to alcohol, meaning that students reported committing the offence while intoxicated. An additional 2 cases involved illegal drug possession, sale or use.

Fig. 7 Alcohol and Drugs three year comparison

	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
Alcohol – Primary Incidents directly related to alcohol provision or use	0	7	4
Alcohol – Secondary Incidents in which the student reported committing the offences while intoxicated	13	15	15
Drugs Illegal possession or sale of intoxicating substances other than alcohol	2	5	9



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic Integrity Handbook for Instructors and TAs – This Handbook was originally written in 2003 as a complement to the Code of Student Behaviour and a guide to promoting academic integrity. In 2012/13, the OSJA distributed 5,442 of these handbooks to professors, sessionals and teaching assistants in every academic unit. As a supplement to the Handbook, the OSJA developed a number of online tip sheets designed to give more detailed information on various topics of interest. <http://www.tie.ualberta.ca/en/ResourcesforInstructors/TipSheetsForInstructors.asp>

Academic Integrity Council – One of the recommendations from the 2011 Academic Integrity Task Force was to form an Academic Integrity Council, made up of students, faculty and staff who have responsibilities or interest in academic integrity. The Council acts as an advisory body to the OSJA to coordinate efforts across campus and make improvements to the Truth in Education (TIE) program. The Council is chaired by C. Hackett and began meeting once per term this year.



Working Group on the Use of Text-Matching Software – C. Hackett chaired a working group to report back to the Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC) on the use of text-matching software (often called plagiarism-detection software). The working group met over the academic year and the report was brought to CLRC on June 6, 2013.

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 procedural fairness and academic integrity initiatives. As a follow up, a separate meeting was held to discuss the use of the Inappropriate Behaviour in Professional Programs section of the CoSB. An additional focus group on the topic provided the student perspective.

Presentations – D. Eerkes and C. Hackett gave a total of 45 presentations on academic integrity, hazing, restorative justice, the Code of Student Behaviour, student/staff

interaction and student ethics this year. Presentations on campus included the International Centre, FGSR, Lister, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Rehabilitation Medicine, English and Film Studies, Linguistics, History and Classics classes, and the Faculty of Engineering (both at U of A and the Grant MacEwan Engineering transfer program).

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

Hazing resources – Following the development of a definition of Hazing for the Code of Student Behaviour, the two Discipline Officers created a web-based resource to educate about hazing and to offer ideas and support for dealing with hazing. In addition, the office collaborated with a number of student groups, including the Golden Bears football team, Phi Gamma Delta and Delta Gamma to produce three promotional videos to draw attention to the issue of hazing. www.osja.ualberta.ca/hazedandconfused.



Staff Training – D. Eerkes and C. Hackett worked with Residence Services to design and deliver training to student and professional staff on restorative justice and investigation techniques. In addition, D. Eerkes facilitated a number of Best Practices Learning circles for student services personnel throughout the University.

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.

Code of Student Behaviour review group – C. Hackett and D. Eerkes joined a group of key stakeholders in reviewing the Code of Student Behaviour and collaborating on updating and improving it. Meetings were held monthly and resulting proposals brought through the governance process.

Coalition for Action on High Risk Drinking (CAHRD) – 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 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. A working

group has been struck for the summer of 2013 in order to plan for the sustainability of the Check Yourself Program. In addition, CAHRD now has a seat on the Alberta Safer Bars Council, where we can connect with officials from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, police and health professionals as well as municipal representatives.



Residence Community Standards Review Committee – Both Discipline Officers sat on the committee assigned to review the second year of the Residence Community Standards policy. A final report is to be released in Fall 2012.

University Student Services Leadership Team Working Groups – C. Hackett was a member of the International Student Experience Working Group, while D. Eerkes sat on the Senior Management Group and the Staff Learning Working Group.

Policy development - The OSJA participated in or consulted on the Alcohol policy review, Student Groups policy, behavioural and safety issues in Lister, and Student Group discipline issues.

President's Award – The OSJA was recognized this year with the 2012 President's Achievement Award "Dare to Discover" in the Transformative Organization and Support category.

Restorative Justice – D. Eerkes worked with a group of provincial organizations to develop a set of Best Practices for Restorative Justice practitioners throughout Alberta. Participants included the Alberta Conflict Transformation Society (ACTS), Alberta Restorative Justice Association (ARJA), Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre (MRJC), and Alberta Justice, among others. C. Hackett participated as a trainer at a national Restorative Justice training session at the University of Toronto, sponsored by the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Association (SCAIA), a division of the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services (CACUSS).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'D Eerkes'.

Deborah Eerkes, Director