

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT, FALL 2013

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

The Executive Committee is composed of 3 tenured faculty, 3 junior faculty, 3 undergraduates and the Dean of Yale College or Dean's representative, with 3 members (non-student) serving as officers of the Committee: the chair, the Fact-Finder and the secretary.

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 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 Fall 2013 there were 46 dispositions without formal hearings involving 70 students, 2 Full Hearings involving 2 students, and 1 penalty hearing involving 1 student.

Dispositions without a formal hearing:

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.)

Penalty Hearings:

In cases where students wish to dispute the penalty resulting from a disposition without a formal hearing, they may petition for a Penalty Hearing which is brought before the full Executive Committee. In Fall 2013 there was 1 penalty hearing involving 1 student charged with academic dishonesty. The penalty of 2 terms of suspension was upheld.

Full Hearings:

Although most students admit the validity of the charge(s) made against them and opt for a disposition without a formal hearing, if students contest 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. In the Fall of 2013 there were 2 formal hearings involving 2 students, with both involving the charge of academic dishonesty.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism

In Fall 2013, 21 students were charged with Academic Dishonesty and 9 of these charges involved plagiarism. In several previous Chair's reports such as the 2009-10 report, considerable attention was given to academic dishonesty and plagiarism, both to defining the various forms of academic dishonesty and to recommendations and guidelines for its prevention going forward. Although academic dishonesty remains a common violation of the undergraduate regulations, an apparent decrease in overall academic dishonesty charges from 2012 to 2013 is very promising and likely points to the success of the highly visible and concerted efforts under the leadership of Dean Mary Miller, to clearly define and publicize (e.g., website, regular e-mail reminders throughout the academic year) various forms of academic dishonesty as well as guidelines to faculty for stating policies on plagiarism and cheating and their obligation to report violations of these policies to the Executive Committee.

Other forms of academic dishonesty:

The 12 cases of academic dishonesty that did not involve plagiarism involved variable charges including submission of work from previous courses, false claims of instructor/advisor permission, false claims of submission of an exam, false claim of mis-grading, bringing notes to an exam, submission of identical work by multiple students and solicitation of problem set solutions from online sources and copying of problem set solutions posted online.

Alcohol and illicit drugs:

There were 34 students charged with violations involving alcohol, the majority of which involved under-aged drinking or distributing alcohol to under-aged individuals at social functions, and several involved using false identification to purchase alcohol. Much attention has been devoted to addressing the on-going problems involving alcohol use and abuse on campus, for example the recent "Think About It" video module for entering Freshman.

On-campus alcohol consumption and the so-called "drinking culture" at Yale is the subject of several targeted efforts and designated Yale committees that are actively engaged in further addressing this important issue.

There were 8 cases involving marijuana use, 1 case involving unauthorized use of prescription pills and 1 case involving LSD with at least 4 additional cases involving LSD to be heard in the Spring 2014.

Notably, the recent cases involving LSD are the first at Yale since ~ the 1970-80's, The 1 case from Fall 2013 was carried over to the Spring Term and will therefore be presented in the Spring 2014 report along with at least 3 additional cases and 1 pending case involving 5 students and involving the use of LSD. The Committee feels that this rather sudden spike in violations of the undergraduate regulations involving LSD warrants special attention sooner rather than later to prevent further escalation of this apparent trend.

Referred Cases:

32 cases involving 35 students were referred to the respective residential college dean. 29 of the 32 cases involved 31 students who were intoxicated; 31 were transported to YNHH or University Health Services.

Concluding thoughts:

I have served as a member of the Executive Committee on 2 separate occasions and as Chair since Fall 2013.

Service on the Executive Committee provides the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the perspectives and experiences of Yale undergraduates and of the various challenges they face. It also provides an opportunity to contribute positively to the Yale community and to enhance the academic experience of students that come before the committee, which has proven to be an invaluable asset to my own teaching, advising and mentoring of Yale undergraduates. Students coming before the committee typically undergo deep introspection and reflect very sincerely on their experiences and the consequences of their actions outside of themselves. They also gain valuable insights into their relationships to fellow students, roommates and residents of their colleges, and for many, it is an opportunity to recalibrate their mindset and reset their course onto a successful path.

As with past Chairs, I view the Committee's role more as one of 'intervention, correction and redirection' than one of "penalty and punishment," and it has been my experience that committee members approach each case with sincerity and deep concern for the well-being of students and with an earnest desire that the student take full advantage of the "teachable moment" and become stronger, more focused and in many cases more empowered and better able to benefit from and fully engage in the plethora of extraordinary opportunities available to Yale undergraduates.

As noted by previous Chairs Jacobs, Clark, Bloom, and others, "the great majority of cases that come before the committee are not due to willful or malicious intent and often are the result of poor decision making—usually under great stress, inattention to guidelines/instructions,

inebriation, and honest mistakes.” This remains largely true, with “honest mistakes” typically due to students just not knowing or paying close enough attention to rules and course/assignment guidelines. Great pressure to achieve “perfection” (rather than excellence) either self-imposed by the student or ascribed to outside, usually family/parental, expectations, has been put forth as a reason for committing academic dishonesty on several occasions, which points to a need to consider ways to address this issue during student orientation or other occasions throughout the academic year. While there are some rare cases possibly involving issues of deeper concern, the vast majority of cases that come before the committee involve students who are highly sincere, and deeply remorseful, but have simply made a very poor choice due to a singular and momentary lapse in judgment. The experience of coming before the Executive Committee has a very profound impact on most students with the intended outcome of setting them back onto to a path of academic and personal success.

Thanks

I am deeply thankful to all members of the 2013-2014 Executive Committee for their excellent committed and compassionate service during a fairly active term. Each member brought invaluable expertise and perspective to bear in their most thoughtful and careful consideration of all cases brought before the full Committee. I would like to extend special thanks to the 3 undergraduate student members of the Committee, Austin Jaspers, JE '15, Nicole Shibley, TC '14 and James Volz, SY '15, especially for their committed weekly service to the Coordinating Group. These students provided invaluable insights on undergraduate life, academic and course-related issues and the challenges faced by Yale students. I am thankful to Susan Sawyer in the General Counsel's office and Dr. Lorraine Siggins for their critical input and expertise as consultants to the Committee and to Dean Mary Miller for her leadership and tireless commitment to excellence. I would also like to thank Lisa Miller, Lisa Pitoniak and other staff in the Yale College Dean's office for their assistance with organizing cases, communications, distributing documentation, and with the day-to-day logistics that allow the committee to function smoothly. It was a great pleasure to work in the Coordinating Group each week with Professor Alan Mikhail, our fact-finder, and Dean Pamela George, the secretary of the Committee. Both brought not only their unique and valuable perspectives on cases, but also the highest level of concern, fairness, compassion, and respect for each student who came before us. Finally, I cannot begin to thank Pamela George, enough for her deep and sincere commitment to the Executive Committee and to the overall well-being and success of Yale students, as well as her wonderful support of the incoming Chair.

Ruth Blake

Chair of the Yale College Executive Committee Fall 2013

Professor of Geology & Geophysics

Professor of Forestry & Environmental Studies

Fall 2013**Dispositions without Formal Hearings**

46 dispositions without formal hearings, involving 70 students

Formal Hearings

2 formal hearings, involving 2 students

Penalty Hearings

1 penalty hearing involving 1 student

Penalties from dispositions and formal hearings

The following penalties were assigned to 72 students:

- expulsions – 1
- suspensions - 8
- probations - 10
- reprimands – 53
- not guilty – 0
- withhold degree - 0

Academic Dishonesty Charges, including pending cases

21 students were charged with Academic Dishonesty which resulted in:

- suspensions - 8
- probations - 6
- reprimands – 3
- charge withdrawn – 2
- withhold degree - 0
- carried over to spring term – 2

Plagiarism

9 of the 21 cheating cases were plagiarism which resulted in:

- suspensions - 3
- probations - 4
- reprimands – 2
- charges withdrawn – 0
- withhold degree - 0
- carried over to the spring term – 0

Other forms of Academic Dishonesty

12 of the remaining cheating cases were other forms of cheating:

- 1 Falsely claimed permission from residential college dean to take a make-up exam after the deadline
- 1 Falsely claimed an exam was misgraded and changed answers on exam to be reviewed for a better grade

- 1 Copied answers from a TA online posting of problem sets
- 1 Provided solution sets from a previous course to 2 students taking the course this term
- 1 Submitted solution sets from a previous course as own work
- 2 Submitted identically incorrect solutions to a quiz
- 1 Posted problem sets on the internet asking for answers and posted the take-home mid-term exam
- 1 Falsely claimed he turned in a midterm exam
- 1 Fabricated quotations from sources for a paper
- 1 Falsely claimed permission from residential college master and dean to ask instructors for class assignment extensions
- 1 Brought notes to an exam

Referred Cases

32 cases involving 35 students were referred to the residential college 29 of the 32 cases involved 31 students who were intoxicated; 31 were transported to YNHH or University Health Services.

Fall 2013 Chair Report Summaries

Formal Hearing

In a formal hearing, Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for bringing notes to an exam, was placed on probation for 2 terms.

In a formal hearing, Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for copying answers from a TA online posting of problem sets, was placed on probation for 3 terms.

Penalty Hearing

In a Penalty Hearing, Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for using problem set solutions from a previous year to submit as her own, had the penalty of 2 terms suspension upheld.

Dispositions without Formal Hearings

Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for providing solution sets from a previous course to 2 Juniors taking the course this term, was reprimanded.

Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for using problem set solutions from a previous year to submit as her own, was suspended for 2 terms.

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

Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a final paper, was placed on probation for 2 terms.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a paper, was placed on probation for the remainder of his time at Yale.

Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing several papers, was placed on probation for the remainder of her time at Yale.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a final paper, was placed on probation for 2 terms.

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

Sophomore, charged with Trespassing for entering the Sterling Memorial Library after hours, was reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with Trespassing for entering the Sterling Memorial Library after hours, was reprimanded.

Junior, charged with Trespassing for entering the Sterling Memorial Library after hours, was reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with Trespassing for entering the Sterling Memorial Library after hours, was reprimanded.

4 Freshman, charged with violating alcohol and social function regulations for hosting an unregistered party in Timothy Dwight College where alcohol was served to minors, were reprimanded.

Junior, charged with violating drug regulations for possession and smoking marijuana near Linsley Chittenden Hall, was reprimanded.

Freshman, found intoxicated in Lanman Wright Hall, charged with violating alcohol regulations for second transport to YNHH for alcohol intoxication, was reprimanded.

Freshman, 17 y.o., charged with violating alcohol regulations and falsification of documents for possession of alcohol by a minor outside College Wine at 68 Church Street purchased with a fake i.d., was reprimanded.

Freshman, 19 y.o., charged with violating alcohol regulations and falsification of documents for possession of alcohol by a minor outside of College Wine at 68 Church Street, purchased with a fake i.d., was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with violating alcohol regulations and Falsification of Documents for possession of alcohol and false i.d.'s outside of College Wine at 68 Church Street, was reprimanded.

Freshman, 19 y.o., charged with violating alcohol regulations and falsification of documents for possession of alcohol by a minor outside of College Wine at 68 Church Street, purchased with a fake i.d., was reprimanded.

Senior, charged with violating alcohol and drug violations for using prescription drugs not prescribed to her combined with drinking wine in Branford College, was reprimanded. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, charged with Falsification of Documents, violating alcohol regulations and Defiance for possession of a false i.d. and not cooperating with police in Saybrook courtyard while in possession of alcohol as a minor, was reprimanded.

Junior President of a fraternity, charged with violating social function and alcohol regulations for hosting a party where alcohol was served unattended, was reprimanded. One underage student who attended the party was transported to YNHH for alcohol intoxication.

Sophomore, charged with violating alcohol regulations and Falsification of Documents for buying alcohol while underage at College Wine, 68 Church Street, with a fake i.d., was reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with violating alcohol regulations and Falsification of Documents for buying alcohol while underage at College Wine, 68 Church Street, with a fake i.d., was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with violating alcohol regulations and Falsification of Documents for buying alcohol while underage at College Wine, 68 Church Street, with a fake i.d., was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with violating alcohol regulations and Falsification of Documents for buying alcohol while underage at College Wine, 68 Church Street, with a fake i.d., was reprimanded.

Junior, charged with violating drug regulations for possession and smoking marijuana near Linsley Chittenden Hall, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with violating drug and weapon regulations and imperiling the integrity of the university for receiving LSD in the mail at Yale Station on Old Campus, and possession of weapons in his residence, was expelled.

Junior, charged with violating alcohol regulations and physical assault for attacking another student in Pierson College while intoxicated, was reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with violating Drug regulations and Trespassing for possession of cocaine and walking on the hood of a car on High Street, was placed on probation for 2 terms.

2 Seniors and 1 Junior President of Improv groups, charged with violating Dormitory Regulations and Defiance for not cooperating with a staff member on Old Campus when she asked them to respect noise regulations at 4:30 in the morning, were reprimanded.

Senior, charged with violating alcohol and social function violations for hosting a party at 23 Lake Place where alcohol was served to minors, one of whom had to be transported to YNHH for alcohol detoxification, was reprimanded.

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

Junior, charged with Defiance of Authority, Acts of Violence and violating alcohol regulations for an argument with a non-Yale friend in Hamden, CT where he became combative and noncooperative with police, was placed on probation for the remainder of his time at Yale.

Sophomore, charged with violating alcohol, drug and dormitory regulations for hosting a party where alcohol was served to minors and marijuana was being smoked in Davenport College, was placed on probation.

Senior, charged with Theft, Trespassing and Defiance for stealing candy from the Morse College Buttery, trespassing in Calhoun College during Summer Session and Defiance for disobeying instructions from the Dean of Davenport College, was reprimanded.

4 Freshman, charged with violating drug violations for smoking marijuana in the Old Campus courtyard, were reprimanded.

Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for claiming she had permission from her residential college dean take a make-up exam after the deadline, was suspended for 3 terms.

2 Sophomores, charged with violating Drug, Alcohol & Dormitory Regulations for smoking marijuana and drinking beer in a dorm room in Ezra Stiles College, were reprimanded.

Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for posting problem sets on the internet asking for answers and posting the take-home mid-term, was suspended for 2 terms.

Senior, charged with Defiance for refusing to remove noncompliant posters when asked to do so by an associate dean of Yale College, were reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with Defiance for refusing to remove noncompliant posters when asked to do so by an associate dean of Yale College, was reprimanded.

Junior, charged with violating alcohol regulations for multiple transports to YNHH for alcohol intoxication, was placed on probation for 2 terms.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for claiming an exam was misgraded and turning in a different exam to be reviewed for a better grade, was suspended for 2 terms.

11 Sophomores, charged with violating Alcohol, Trespassing and Dormitory Regulations for defacing the walls of their common room and having beer parties in their Pierson College suite while underage, were reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with Falsification of Documents for a fake i.d. used to buy alcohol as a minor, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for fabricating quotations from sources in a paper, was suspended for one term.

Senior captain of an athletic team, charged with violating alcohol regulations at a party at the team house where a prospective underage student was served alcohol and medical assistance was not sought, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a paper, was suspended for 1 term and placed on probation for 3 terms.

Junior, charged with violating alcohol regulations for an ambulance transport for intoxication to YNHH, was This is the student's second transport for alcohol intoxication.

Freshman, charged with violating alcohol regulations and Falsification of Documents for possession of alcohol bought at Old Bin Liquor on Church Street with a false i.d., was reprimanded.

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

Referrals

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

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

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in front of 206 Elm Street. AMR transport to YNHH.

Junior, 19 y.o., referred and reprimanded for violating alcohol regulations for possession of alcohol as a minor on Chapel Street.

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

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

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in front of Swing Dorm on Tower Parkway. AMR transport to YNHH.

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

Sophomore, 18 y.o., referred and reprimanded for violating alcohol regulations for possession of alcohol as a minor on 68 Church Street.

Sophomore, 19 y.o., referred and reprimanded for violating alcohol regulations for possession of alcohol as a minor on 68 Church Street.

Freshman, 18 y.o., referred and reprimanded for violating alcohol regulations for possession of alcohol as a minor at 68 Church Street.

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

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

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

Sophomore, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Vanderbilt Hall. AMR transport to YNHH.

Junior, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Swing Dorm. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Morse College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, 20 y.o., found intoxicated in front of Saybrook College. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated at Wall and York Streets. AMR transport to YNHH.

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

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

Freshman, 17 y.o., found intoxicated at 288 York Street. AMR transport to YNHH.

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

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

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

Senior, 21 y.o., found intoxicated on Broadway. AMR transport to YNHH.

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

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

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

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

Senior, 22 y.o., found intoxicated at the Yale Bowl. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman found intoxicated at the Yale Bowl. AMR transport to YNHH.

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

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

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