

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT, SPRING 2014**

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 Coordinating Group. 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 Spring 2014 there were 46 dispositions without formal hearings involving 68 students; almost identical to the Fall 2013 term in which there were also 46 dispositions, but involving 70 students. Additionally, there was 1 full formal hearing involving 1 student, and 2 penalty hearings involving 2 students.

### **Dispositions Without a Formal Hearing**

In the case of a 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, a request to consider counseling for substance abuse or mental health, submission of written reflections or formal written guidelines, (for example, a risk-management plan for groups and organizations.)

In Spring 2014 penalties were assigned by the Coordinating Group to 69 students as follows:

40 reprimands, 15 probations, 8 suspensions, 1 expulsion, 4 cases with charges dropped and 1 degree withheld.

## **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 Spring 2014 there were 2 penalty hearings (one carried over from the Fall 2013 Term) involving 2 students, 1 freshman and 1 sophomore with both cases involving the drug LSD and 1 also involving a weapons charge. The penalties of 3 terms suspension in one case, and expulsion in the other case, were both upheld.

## **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. To begin the process, the faculty fact-finder will thoroughly investigate the matter by meeting with the charged student, instructors or other professional members of the University and any witnesses that the charged student wishes to include in the investigation.

In the Spring of 2014 there was 1 formal hearing involving 1 student charged with academic dishonesty. This student received a penalty of reprimand.

## **Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism**

In Spring 2014, 20 students were charged with academic dishonesty, this is again almost identical to the Fall 2013 semester in which 21 students were charged with academic dishonesty. Of the 20 students charged in Spring 2014, 9 were charged with plagiarism, which is again similar to Fall 2013. It was noted in the Fall 2013 report that the number of cases represented a 30% decrease in overall academic dishonesty charges compared to Spring 2012, and also a decrease from 60% of these cases involving plagiarism to only 42% involving plagiarism; so this drop in cases of academic dishonesty and plagiarism held steady through the Spring 2014 term. At the time of the Fall 2013 report, it was suggested that this notable 30% decrease in overall academic dishonesty cases and 60% drop in plagiarism cases might be a reflection of recent efforts to increase awareness, education and regulation of academic dishonesty spearheaded by Mary Miller, former Dean of Yale College. The observation that the decline in academic dishonesty cases held steady through the Spring 2014 term, is further confirmation of the likely impact of these efforts. It is too early to tell if a “steady-state” has been reached, however, results thus far are promising and suggest that current practices should be continued and possibly augmented to further decrease the incidence of reports of academic dishonesty in Yale College.

## **Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty**

The 11 cases of academic dishonesty that did not involve plagiarism involved variable charges including: leaving an exam without permission, false claims of a Dean’s excuse for extension of a paper deadline, changing answers on a returned exam then requesting re-grading, referring to

notes during an exam, 2 or more students submitting identical assignments and copying answers from another student.

### **Alcohol and Illicit Drugs**

In Spring 2014 there were 26 students charged with violations involving alcohol; down from 34 cases in Fall 2013. The majority involved under-aged drinking or distributing alcohol to under-aged individuals at social functions, and some involved presenting false identification or lying to police. Of the 26 students who were found to be intoxicated, 25 were transported to Yale New Haven Hospital or University Health Services. The typical penalty for alcohol-related charges was a reprimand and ongoing education and assessment.

There was a marked increase in drug-related cases for the 2013-2014 academic year, with a total of 33 drug violation charges in 2013-2014 compared to only 8 in 2012-2013, 5 in 2011-2012, 15 in 2010-2011 and 5 in 2009-2010. Of the 33 total drug-related charges brought before the Executive Committee in the 2013-2014 academic year, 7 involved marijuana, 1 involved ecstasy, 1 involved use of over-the-counter sleeping pills in combination with LSD, and 8 additional cases involved charges of use and/ or concealment of LSD. As noted in the Fall 2013 Chair's report, this apparent cluster of LSD cases are the first reported at Yale since the 1970's-80's. A total of 10 students ranging from freshman to juniors were charged with violations involving LSD in the 2013-2014 academic year.

### **Other Violations**

Also in Spring 2014, there were 10 cases involving charges of trespassing and willful property damage, harassment or exposure--often influenced by intoxication; and 5 cases involving incidents of hazing (*e.g.*, blindfolding).

### **Referred Cases:**

26 cases involving 26 students cited or transported for alcohol consumption were referred to the residential colleges. 26 of the 26 cases involved 26 students who were intoxicated with 25 being transported to YNH or University Health Services.

### **Concluding thoughts:**

I have now served as Chair of the Yale Executive Committee for approx. one and a half full terms, beginning Fall 2013. This role continues to deepen my understanding of the perspectives and experiences of Yale undergraduates. Service on the Executive Committee also provides an opportunity to contribute positively to the Yale community and to enhance the academic

experience of students that come before the Committee by intervening and redirecting them toward a more positive and successful path. The goal is not to blindly punish and penalize, but rather, to provide “teachable moments” of self-reflection and the opportunity to recalibrate one’s goals and mindset.

The majority of violations do not involve malice, willful intent or lack of character, but are the result of poor decision-making, immaturity, lack of attention to details or the influence of intoxicants —also taken often as a result of poor judgment. There are also the occasional cases of self-imposed pressures to achieve “perfection” (rather than excellence), often ascribed to perceived and sometimes very real pressures of community/family expectations or circumstances, that can result in students navigating stressful situations poorly, while also feeling uncomfortable seeking help and guidance from their college Deans and other advisors. In such cases, the Committee along with the student’s Dean/Master take steps to make sure that the student is aware of available resources at Yale (*e.g.*, tutoring, counseling, health), as well as assists in connecting the student with resource providers.

The vast majority of cases that come before the Committee involve students who are deeply remorseful and sincere, 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.

In conclusion, this Chair’s advice to students with regard to violations of the Yale College Undergraduate Regulations is to choose to “raise your own bar” and continue to be the extraordinary person, scholar and citizen that led to your becoming a part of this truly extraordinary community and institution.

## **Thanks**

I sincerely thank all of the members of the 2013-2014 Executive Committee for their commitment to service and very thoughtful consideration of all cases brought before the Committee. A very special thanks to the Secretary of the Committee, Dean Pamela George, for her professionalism, expertise and tireless commitment to excellence in serving the Executive Committee and Yale College. A special thanks also to the truly wonderful student members who served on the Committee, Austin Jaspers, JE ’15 ; Susannah Krapf ‘ 17; James Volz, ’15 (served in the fall 2013) and Hans Kassier, ‘16 for their preparedness and most thoughtful consideration of cases, and for providing invaluable insight and perspective each week as part of the Coordinating Group as well as at full hearings and penalty hearings. Thanks also to the Fact-Finder of the committee, Professor Alan Mikhail, for his thorough investigations and reports. It was a great pleasure to work in the Coordinating Group each week with Professor Mikhail and Dean George as 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.

I thank Lisa Miller, Lisa Pitoniak and other staff in the Yale 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. I am also thankful to Susan Sawyer in

the General Counsel's office and Dr. Lorrain Siggins for their critical input and expertise as consultants to the Committee.

Last but not least, I am deeply thankful to each of the residential college Deans, Masters and other advisors who have appeared before the Committee. The value of their most critical role in advising, preparing, counseling and supporting the students who appear before the Executive Committee is immeasurable.

**Ruth Blake**

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

*Professor of Geology & Geophysics*

*Professor of Forestry & Environmental Studies*

**Spring 2014**

**Formal Hearings**

1 formal hearing, involving 1 student

**Penalty Hearings**

2 penalty hearings involving 2 students

**Dispositions without Formal Hearings**

46 dispositions without formal hearings, involving 68 students

**Penalties from dispositions and formal hearings**

The following penalties were assigned to 69 students:

*expulsions* – 1

*suspensions* - 8

*probations* - 15

*reprimands* - 40

*not guilty* – 4

*withhold degree* - 1

**Academic Dishonesty Charges, including pending cases**

20 students were charged with Academic Dishonesty which resulted in:

*suspensions* - 5

*probations* - 1

*reprimands* – 7

*charge withdrawn* – 0

*withhold degree - 0*  
*carried over to fall term – 7*

### **Plagiarism**

9 of the 20 academic dishonesty cases were plagiarism which resulted in:

*suspensions - 3*  
*probations - 1*  
*reprimands – 1*  
*charges withdrawn – 0*  
*withhold degree - 0*  
*carried over to the fall term – 4*

### **Other forms of Academic Dishonesty**

11 of the remaining academic dishonesty cases were other forms of cheating:

- 1 Falsely told his instructor he had a dean's excuse and turned in a final paper late
- 1 Left an exam without authorization to get lunch and then returned to the exam room
- 2 Changed their answers on a returned exam and then requested re-grading
- 6 Copied answers from other student
- 1 Referred to notes during an exam

### **Referred Cases**

26 cases involving 26 students were referred to the residential college

26 of the 26 cases involved 26 students who were intoxicated; 25 were transported to YNHH or University Health Services.

## Spring 2014 Chair Report Summaries

### Formal Hearing

In a formal hearing, Junior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for leaving an exam without authorization to get lunch and then returning to the exam room, was reprimanded.

### Penalty Hearings

In a penalty hearing, 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, had penalty of expulsion upheld.

In a penalty hearing, Sophomore, charged with violating drug regulations for possession and use of LSD, had penalty of 3 terms suspension upheld.

### Dispositions without Formal Hearings

3 Freshmen, charged with violating drug regulations for smoking marijuana in Silliman College, were reprimanded.

Junior, charged with Willful Property Damage and Trespassing for spray painting the walls inside the tunnels under Berkeley College, was reprimanded.

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

Senior, charged with violating alcohol regulations and Defiance for not cooperating with police officers, ambulance personnel and hospital personnel while intoxicated, was placed on probation. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Senior, charged with Defiance for lying to police offices about her name and date of birth, was reprimanded.

Sophomore president of an acapella group, charged with violating alcohol, social function and student activities regulations, Responsibility for Events, Fire Safety, Defiance and Falsification of Documents for hosting an unauthorized event in SSS 114 where alcohol was served to minors and when questioned by a police officer claimed a dean of Yale College gave them permission to do so, was reprimanded.

Senior, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing a paper, was suspended for 1 term.

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

Sophomore, charged with violating drug regulations for possession and use of LSD, was suspended for 3 terms.

2 Sophomores, charged with violating drug regulations for possession and use of LSD, were placed on probation for the remainder of their time at Yale.

Freshman, charged with violating alcohol regulations and Trespassing for intoxication and transport to YNHH from Welch Hall which was not his own, was reprimanded.

8 Freshman, charged with violating alcohol and social function regulations for having an unauthorized party in Farnum Hall where alcohol was served to minors, were reprimanded.

Junior, charged with violating drug regulations for possession of marijuana in McClellan Hall, was reprimanded.

Sophomore, charged with Willful Property Damage for cracking a car windshield with a stick at 798 George Street, was placed on probation for 1 term.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for plagiarizing an assignment, was suspended for 1 term.

2 Juniors, charged with violating alcohol and social function regulations for hosting an unregistered party at the Rugby House where alcohol was served to minors, were reprimanded. A freshman was transported to Yale Health for intoxication.

Freshman and a sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for submitting nearly identical assignments, were reprimanded.

2 sophomores, charged for Academic Dishonesty for submitting nearly identical assignments, were reprimanded.

Senior, charged with Defiance and Hazing for hazing an undergraduate and not cooperating with a residential college dean, was placed on probation for the remainder of her time at Yale.

Sophomore charged with violating alcohol regulations for intoxication in Trumbull College, was placed on probation for 1 term. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for referring to notes during an exam, was suspended for 2 terms.

Junior, charged with violating drug regulations for requiring an AMR Transport after the use of LSD and sleeping pills, was placed on probation for the remainder of his time at Yale.

Sophomore, charged with violating drug regulations for taking LSD, was placed on probation for the remainder of her time at Yale. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Junior, charged with imperiling the integrity of the university and trespassing for allowing 2 non-undergraduates into the Ezra Stiles library where they exposed themselves to another undergraduate, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with Academic Dishonesty for changing answers on a returned exam and requesting regrading, was suspended for 2 terms.

Sophomore, charged with violating drug and alcohol regulations for possession of alcohol by a minor and marijuana in Pierson College, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with violating drug regulations and imperiling the integrity of the university for vandalizing a room in Durfee Hall while under the influence of LSD, was placed on probation for the remainder of his time at Yale.

Freshman, charged with misuse of computer facilities for sending an email in a professor's name, was reprimanded.

Junior, charged with violating drug regulations for possession of marijuana in Swing Space, was placed on 2 terms probation.

Junior, charged with violating alcohol regulations for 2nd transport to YNHH for alcohol intoxication, was reprimanded.



Freshman, charged with Harassment, Trespassing and imperiling the integrity of the University for entering other undergraduates' rooms in Silliman without permission and while nude, was suspended for 2 terms and placed on probation through his junior year.

Sophomore, charged with Academic Dishonesty for falsely telling his instructor he had a dean's excuse and turning in a final paper late, was reprimanded.

Freshman, charged with violating alcohol regulations for an AMR transport to YNHH from Branford College, was reprimanded.

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

Junior, charged with violating alcohol regulations for bringing wine to the Off Broadway Theater, was reprimanded.

Junior, charged with violating Dormitory Regulations for throwing a bottle from his Timothy Dwight room window to Temple Street, was reprimanded.

3 seniors, charged with Hazing for blindfolding pledges, were reprimanded.

Seniors, charged with Hazing for blindfolding pledges, was reprimanded.

Senior, charged with Hazing for blindfolding pledges, was placed on probation.

1 of 3 Freshmen, charged with violating drug regulations and imperiling the integrity of the University for the use and concealment of LSD in Durfee Hall, was placed on probation for the remainder of his time at Yale.

Senior, charged with Defiance and misuse of University Facilities for defying instructions regarding an undergraduate production, was reprimanded.

1 of 3 Freshmen, charged with violating drug regulations and imperiling the integrity of the University for the use and concealment of LSD in Durfee Hall, was placed on probation for the remainder of his time at Yale.

1 of 3 Freshmen, charged with violating drug regulations and imperiling the integrity of the University for the purchase, use and concealment of LSD in Durfee Hall, was expelled.

2 Seniors and 1 Junior, charged with Hazing for a milk-chugging incident involving a Freshman in front of Bingham Hall, had charges withdrawn.

Sophomore, charged with Trespassing, Willful Property Damage and violating alcohol regulations for vandalizing playground equipment on property adjacent to the rear of Lake Place and breaking a glass door in a children's center at 45 Dixwell Ave., was placed on probation for 2 terms.

Senior, charged with Drugs and Defiance for possession of marijuana at the Tandoor restaurant at 1226 Chapel Street and not cooperating with a police officer, was reprimanded.

Senior president of an undergraduate organization, charged with violating Social Function and Alcohol regulations for hosting an unregistered party at a fraternity house at 31 High Street where alcohol was served to minors and 2 undergraduates were sexually assaulted, had charge withdrawn.

Senior charged with violating drug regulations for using drugs (ecstasy) at 65 Edgewood Ave. which resulted in an AMR transport to YNHH, was reprimanded.

Senior, charged with Trespassing & Defiance for unauthorized entrance to a restricted area in Harkness Tower and lying to police about his identity, was reprimanded.

Senior, charged with Trespassing and violating use of university facilities for unauthorized use of Dwight Hall vehicles, had his degree held, which is the equivalent of suspension for 1 term.

Senior, charged with Trespassing and violating use of university facilities for unauthorized use of Dwight Hall vehicles, was reprimanded.

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

### Referrals

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Vanderbilt Hall. Yale shuttle transport to Yale Health Services.

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

Junior, 20 y.o., found intoxicated near 120 High Street. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in Farnam Hall. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Beinecke Plaza. AMR Transport to YNHH.

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

Sophomore, 21 y.o., found intoxicated in Berkeley College. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Junior, 20 y.o., found intoxicated at 37 High Street. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Junior, 20 y.o., found intoxicated at the corner of Ashmun St. and Lock St. AMR Transport to YNHH.

Senior, 22 y.o., found intoxicated at 21 Elm Street. AMR Transport to YNHH.

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

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated in Welch Hall. AMR determined transport not needed.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated at 222 York Street. AMR transport to YNHH.

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

Sophomore, 20 y.o., found intoxicated at 33 Lynwood Place. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 18 y.o., found intoxicated at 206 Elm Street. AMR transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, 22 y.o., found intoxicated at 316 Elm Street, Ivy Noodle. AMR transport to YNHH.

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

Senior, 21 y.o., found intoxicated at 133 Howe Street. AMR transport to YNHH.

Senior, 21 y.o., found intoxicated at 344 Elm Street. AMR transport to YNHH.

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

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

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

Sophomore, 19 y.o., found intoxicated at 261 Park Street. AMR transport to YNHH.

Freshman, 19 y.o., found intoxicated in the courtyard of 344 College Street. AMR transport to YNHH.

Sophomore, 20 y.o., found intoxicated at 483 College Street. AMR transport to YNHH.