

MEMORANDUM

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TO: Fred W. Obear, Chairman
Steering Committee

*Office
of the Provost*

FROM: Gertrude M. White, Chairman
Academic Conduct Committee

SUBJECT: Report on Activities of the Academic Conduct Committee

From September 1971 to August 1972, the Academic Conduct Committee heard a total of 33 cases of alleged academic misconduct. Eight of these involved charges of plagiarism on papers and 25 of cheating on examinations. The following is a breakdown of the decisions made:

No action	3
Not guilty	8
Official reprimand	1
Probation	5
Suspension with immediate reinstatement	8
Suspension for one semester	3
Suspension for Spring/Summer terms	4
Suspension for more than one semester	1

The Committee's role is the difficult one of protecting the rights of individual students and faculty alike, while safeguarding the academic standards and principles of the University as an institution. Its policies and procedures are directed toward these ends, no one of which should be subordinated to another.

In order to inform all members of the university of the existence, nature, and function of the Committee and advise them of their particular rights and responsibilities, the Committee prepared separate statements for faculty and students and distributed them at the beginning of the Fall term. These, or similar statements, should be given to all new members of the faculty and should be made part of the regular orientation program for all entering students. Student ignorance of what constitutes a breach of academic decorum is as much responsible for cases brought before the Committee as is any deliberate intent to cheat or plagiarize. Faculty members could prevent much confusion and trouble by clear instructions concerning the conduct they permit or expect in their courses. The statements were thus an effort to alert students and faculty alike to the need for care and forethought in handling assignments, reports, papers, and examinations.

The Committee urges all departments to draw up and distribute to the students in its courses a statement of departmental policies and procedures. What is and what is not acceptable behavior should be set down clearly in writing, since there is considerable variation in these matters from department to department.

The Committee has experienced considerable difficulty in finding times for its hearings that are convenient for all concerned. For

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this reason, we recommend that more members, both faculty and students, should be appointed, in order that a quorum can be assembled without undue delay.

Occasionally students appearing before the Committee behave in a way disruptive of orderly proceedings. The Committee requests authority, in such cases, after due warning has been given, to declare the hearing adjourned and the student suspended from the University until such time as he professes himself willing to accept and abide by the necessary conventions of such a hearing.