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Oakland University Senate (/?sid=230)

Senate Home Page

[\(/senate/\)](#)

Senate Members

[\(/?id=7559&sid=230\)](#)

Senate Committee Charges

[\(/?id=7570&sid=230\)](#)

Committee Members

[\(/?id=7571&sid=230\)](#)

Constitution

[\(/?id=7572&sid=230\)](#)

Steering Committee Members

[\(/?id=7573&sid=230\)](#)

Reports and Proposals

[\(/?id=7574&sid=230\)](#)

Senate Archives Index

[\(/?id=7575&sid=230\)](#)

[OU Home \(/\)](#) > [Oakland University Senate \(/?id=0&sid=230\)](#) > [Senate Committee Charges \(/?id=7570&sid=230\)](#) > [Senate Committee Annual Reports \(/?id=7578&sid=230\)](#) > [Academic Conduct Committee](#)

Academic Conduct Committee

Annual Reports

2001-2002

Submitted by Kathleen Pfeiffer, co-chair &
Floyd G. Willoughby, co-chair
September 25, 2002

Committee Members:

Kathleen Pfeiffer, *co-chair* (Department of English) --2001-2003
Floyd Willoughby, *co-chair* (Department of Political Science)--2001-2003
Margaret Early (School of Nursing)--2001-2003
Serge Kruk (Department of Mathematics and Statistics)--2001-2003
Kevin Nathan (School of Business Administration)--2001-2003
Nancy Joseph (Department of English)--2001-2003
Julia Smith (School of Education and Human Services)--2001-2003
Martha Zingo (Department of Political Science) ♦ 2001-2003
Nicole Buffard-O ♦ Shea (Department of Modern Languages) ♦ 2000-2002
Michael Mitchell (Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance) ♦ 200-2002
Daniel Ring (Library) ♦ 2000-2002
Satish Walia (Department of Biological Sciences) ♦ 2000-2002
David Mackinder (student rep)
Ashli Bobo (student rep)

Overview:

The Senate ♦s charge to the Academic Conduct Committee (ACC) is "to review, propose, and implement policies concerning academic dishonesty." The committee as a whole acts on this charge by hearing cases of possible academic misconduct, determining guilt where evidence supports such a finding, and imposing sanctions on those found guilty. The co-chairs also address cases of academic misconduct where the student pleads guilty through an administrative academic conduct hearing, in which the chair, while meeting with the dean, the accusing professor, the guilty student and his or her advisor, determines a sanction in consultation with all of the parties and thereby avoids the full hearing. In cases where all parties cannot agree on a sanction, the case proceeds through a full committee hearing.

During the period of Summer 2001- Spring 2002, a total of 48 cases involving 55 students were submitted; this reflects a continuing trend of increased cases submitted over the past few years.

Year	Cases	Students
1997-1998	12	19
1998-1999	19	28
1999-2000	22	37
2000-2001	32	44
2001-2002	48	55

Of these 48 cases, however, 23 students had their cases withdrawn, either because insufficient evidence supported the charge, or at the request of the charging professor; 15 were processed through administrative hearings; and 1 student was found not guilty.

Offense	Cases	Number of Students
Plagiarism	21	23
Cheating	19	24
Falsifying Records	-	8
Total	48	48

Committee Caseload:

Department or School	Number of Cases	Students
Accounting	3	6
Biological Sciences	1	1

Chemistry	1	1
Curriculum, Instruction, Leadership	1	1
English	4	4
History	3	3
Human Resource Development	1	1
Mathematics/Statistics	4	5
Mechanical Engineering	3	6
Modern Language/Literature	4	4
Music, Theatre, Dance	1	1
Philosophy	5	5
Political Science	4	4
Psychology	3	3
Registrar's Office	4	4
Rhetoric, Communication, Journalism	4	4
School of Education/Field Services	2	2

Plagiarism was charged in 20 cases involving 21 students. In 15 cases of cheating, 20 students were charged. Eight students were charged in falsifying records in 8 cases.

Term Distribution

Summer 2001-- 2

Fall 2001-- 20

Winter 2002--21

Spring 2002-- 5

Sanctions

All sanctions were determined on a case by case basis, though committee deliberations often considered other, similar cases in determining a sanction; thus the committee strove to maintain consistency among relative cases. In some instances the sanctions of suspension and academic probation may overlap or run concurrently. All suspended students remain on academic probation for the duration of their time at Oakland.

Committee Sanctions by Number of Students

<u>Sanction</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
<u>Expulsion</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Suspension</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Suspension held in Abeyance</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Probation</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Disciplinary Reprimand</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Not Guilty</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Withdrawn</u>	<u>23</u>
-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>55</u>

Comments

The Dean of Students Office, particularly Roxanne Kolar Knudsen, Karen Lloyd and Glenn McIntosh, provided invaluable support throughout the semester. As past annual reports have noted, it is not only their excellent administrative support that keeps this committee functioning smoothly, but their compassion for students, availability to faculty, and their calm, reassuring presence.

The violation of academic conduct would seem to be keeping pace with increasing enrollments. However, the withdrawal of the 23 plagiarism cases substantially decreases the number of reported cases for this academic year.

The withdrawal of the plagiarism cases may indicate a trend that has been suspected for some time by Committee members. Plagiarism can be an offense of carelessness, ignorance, or fraud. There have been indications that professors teaching subjects other than Rhetoric may not be proactive in working with students on citation and referencing. In other words, we may not be fulfilling our mission of providing sufficient support for writing across the curriculum.

The last observation notes the 8 case of falsification of records. This is the first year that the Committee has dealt with this type of offense. The cases involved such behaviors as signing add forms to get into closed classes and submitting practical evaluations with



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