Senate Discipline Committee (SDC)
2019-2020 Annual Report

The Senate Discipline Committee (SDC) submits the following annual report for 2019-2020.

1. **Membership (**between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020):

   Faculty members:

Susan Holmes (Chair)	College of Continuing Education (from May 2006)
Andrew Warkentin	Faculty of Engineering (from March 2014)
Robin Parker	Faculty/ University Libraries (from July 2015)
Jure Gantar	Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (sabbatical July 1, 2019)
Kyung Lee	Faculty of Management (from March 2018)
Ammar Sarhan	Faculty of Science (from July 2018)
Victoria Allen	Faculty of Medicine (from July 2018)
Sarah Kirk	Faculty of Health (from July 2019)

   Dalhousie Student Union members:

Dong Ngo	from 2019
Andrew Marshall	from 2019
Mariam Hanna	from 2019
Lauren Delaney	from 2019
Ella Murphy	from 2019
Nick Darbyshire	from 2019
Morgan McAloney	from 2019
Alex Hughes	from 2019

   Leaving the SDC at the end of this academic year are Dong Ngo and Alex Hughes. We thank all faculty and student representatives for their outstanding support and dedication this past year.

2. **Jurisdiction**

   The Committee considers all allegations of academic offences that are not resolved by Faculty Academic Integrity Officers and all breaches of the Code of Student Conduct that are not resolved informally through the Office of the Vice-President, Student Services. In addition to conducting hearings, the SDC meets annually, or as frequently as required, to discuss relevant issues and to provide training to its members.

   In the Winter term of 2018, the Senate and Board of Governors jointly approved a new Sexualized Violence Policy, effectively replacing the portions of the Code of Student Conduct that dealt with those offences. Starting in 2018-19, the SDC applied its jurisdiction to hear allegations of sexualized violence referred to it from the Vice-Provost, Student

Affairs, with the SDC's jurisdiction in those cases narrowed to determining appropriate sanctions and remedies in the cases recommended by the Vice-Provost.

3. Caseload

Total Allegations[1] 41

Total Hearings[2] 37

First time offenders: 21
Repeat offenders: 20

The following chart identifies the number of students with allegations attributable to each Faculty or Administrative Department that were heard by the SDC in the applicable academic year**.** The numbers relate to classes which are part of a specific Faculty and may not be the home Faculty of the instructor or the student.

Faculty or Unit	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Agriculture	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Architecture and Planning	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Arts and Social Sciences	**11**	**11**	**7**	**7**	**4**
College of Sustainability	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Computer Science	**1**	**4**	**3**	**11**	**20**
Dentistry	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Engineering	**3**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**1**
Graduate Studies	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Health	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**1**
Law	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Management	**10**	**5**	**3**	**5**	**7**
Medicine	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Science	**8**	**6**	**7**	**16**	**3**
King's College	**4**	**2**	**5**	**1**	**3**
Code of Conduct / Sexualized Violence Policy	**3**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**1**
Total	**47**	**36**	**37**	**46**	**41**

[1] An **allegation** refers to an alleged offence against a specific student, including code of student conduct offences.
[2] A **hearing** encompasses the entire number of students involved in an alleged offence whose allegations are proceeding before one SDC hearing panel, e.g. a group project involving 4 students would be considered 4 allegations, but only **one** hearing.

4. Student Statistics

a) Outcome

Proven:	37
Not Proven:	4
Total:	**41**

NOTE: The standard of proof is the balance of probabilities. An allegation is considered proven when a panel of the SDC, having reviewed and deliberated over the evidence before it, concludes that it is more likely than not that the student in question committed the alleged offence.

b) Citizenship status:

Canadian:	10
International:	28
Permanent Resident:	3

c) Course Level

Level	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1000	16	22	22
2000	8	11	11
3000	4	9	3
4000	3	1	3
5000	0	0	1
6000+	1	0	0
Other	0	0	1

5. Allegations by Type (*some students have combined allegations)

Plagiarism	21
Academic Fraud	2
Cheating on exam/test	7
Copying	7
Unauthorized Collaboration	6
Use of unauthorized materials- exam/test	1
Code- Breach of informal agreement	1

6. Penalties

NOTE: More than one penalty may be ordered against a student for the same offence (i.e. Resubmit assignment *and* capped grade on assignment).
Explanations of common penalties are provided below.

Notation on transcript	25
Writing Centre Requirement	20
Failure of course	16
Grade of "0" on assignment/exam	11
Reduction of final class grade/capped grade for class	9
Academic Integrity Module	9
Suspension	7
Meet with Advisor/AIO to discuss finding and impact on program	7
Study for success, smart goals & time management workshop	5
Failure of class	3
Reduction of grade for assignment	2
Grade of "0" on portion of assignment/exam	2
Grade capped for course	1
Probation for remainder of studies	1
No contact order in place; cannot enroll in same courses as complainant	1

Notation:

A notation of Senate disciplinary action for an academic offence can be placed on a student's transcript for up to five years. Commonly, a notation is between six months and one year. A notation of two or more years is generally applied only in the case of a second or subsequent offence, possibly in combination with suspension.

Writing Workshop requirement:

If the offence involves incorrect citation or a demonstrable lack of competency in research and writing to required academic standards, the student may be required to attend one of the writing workshops or seminars presented by the Dalhousie Writing Centre at the Killam Library.

The Writing Centre has become a well-used support for students who require further guidance in their writing, researching and citation skills. In the last 5 years, many writing centre requirements are ordered by the SDC, with many more recommended by Academic Integrity Officers at the Faculty Discipline level. The Writing Centre has proven to be a vital resource for students struggling with academic integrity issues.

Suspension:

A student may be suspended for a specified time if the case is egregious and/or involves a repeat offence. Suspensions are most frequently for one term or year, to a maximum of 3 years. For this academic year, there were 7 suspensions issued.

Expulsion:

Expulsion is rarely applied, and has occurred on seven occasions since the 2013-14 academic year.

Other penalty:

Occasionally it is necessary to tailor penalties to suit the circumstances. For example, a student in the King's Foundation Year Program receives a single grade for the year, so prescribing "F in the class" would be inappropriate. Instead, an overall grade reduction might be prescribed.

No penalty or a warning:

A hearing panel may determine that a student has committed an academic offence, but that no penalty or only a warning is appropriate. For example, there may be a number of mitigating factors. However, even when this might occur, the fact that an academic offence has been proven regarding the student will be recorded on the Senate disciplinary case database.

7. Acknowledgements

The SDC further wishes to thank Bob Mann and Kara Miller for their support on all aspects of the Committee's activity.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Holmes
Chair (2019-2020)