

## **Senate Committee on Non-Academic Discipline**

Annual Report to Senate 2007 - 2008<sup>1</sup>

### **Introduction**

It is the role of the Senate Committee on Non-Academic Discipline (SONAD) to monitor the various groups involved in non-academic discipline activities. Through consultation with, and receipt of reports from, these groups or individuals, SONAD reviews non-academic procedures and disciplinary activity in an effort to ensure that these systems are fair and effective. SONAD's general mandate is to review and recommend changes to non-academic discipline policies currently in place at the University. SONAD met eleven times from October 2007 through April 2008. The agenda topics are described below.

### **AMS Prosecutor's Report 2006/2007**

At its September 20, 2007 meeting, Senate referred the AMS Prosecutor's Report to SONAD. The prosecutor's report is a summary of the statistics compiled by the AMS Prosecutor's Office regarding non-academic discipline for the 2006-07 year. The information was reviewed by SONAD and suggestions were made to the Prosecutor's Office addressing how to create meaningful categories within the report to record in general terms the source of the complaint (e.g. student, campus security, resident) and the description of the incident.

The AMS developed its own software to generate custom reports and save records as CD files using the same format as QCARD. The new system has access controls to maintain the confidentiality of non-academic discipline information. Storage and access to information will be more secure and retrieval and reporting of information should be more convenient.

Those sitting on SONAD who were members during the 2006-07 year and familiar with the efforts of the Prosecutor's Office during that period agreed that it was diligent and dedicated in its work and reporting.

### **Residences Discipline Report 2006 - 2007: Summary of Actions**

SONAD reviewed the report, observing the increase in the total number of incidents over last year and the trend of an increasing number of incidents over the last three years. On-line resources used in reporting incidents have made this non-academic discipline system more effective. There has been more attention to inappropriate behaviour and more vigilant reporting. Also, there are more students under the age of nineteen in Residences, leading to more alcohol-related incidents. SONAD received the Report with a favourable response, noting that its content was informative.

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<sup>1</sup> The Senate Committee on Non-Academic Discipline is required to report to the Senate at least annually on the status of non-academic discipline in the University, drawing attention to any special problems that it has identified or anticipates.

### **Draft Student Code of Conduct**

Queen's University Senate approved a motion at the April 26, 2007 meeting to refer the draft *Student Code of Conduct* to all relevant constituencies for review and comment. A SONAD sub-committee provided the mechanism for preliminary review of the written comments submitted. The sub-committee provided SONAD with a draft report to Senate, which clarified current Senate policies and identified topics for discussion. SONAD reviewed the topics of interest and submitted the report to the Senate for an informal session held during the November 15, 2007 meeting. The results from a number of straw polls, taken in response to a series of questions posed during the informal session, were used to inform subsequent discussions at SONAD on the draft *Student Code*.

At the March 27, 2008 meeting of the Senate it was moved that the proposed *Student Code of Conduct* and the thirteen amendments proposed at that time by the Student Senate Caucus be referred back to SONAD for evaluation and that SONAD report back to Senate by the end of April. Some of the amendments were accepted and incorporated into the document, and in other instances the language that was part of the Code was re-affirmed. In other cases the proposed amendments were rejected.

At the April 24, 2008 meeting of the Senate, the motion to approve the new *Student Code of Conduct* and to rescind the current *Code of Conduct* was approved. The new *Student Code of Conduct* came into effect July 1, 2008.

### **SONAD Mandate and Composition**

The functions of SONAD as stated currently in the Senate Handbook are no longer accurate or helpful to understand the work carried out by this committee.

There was consensus that SONAD should continue to review annual reports regarding non-academic discipline referred to it by Senate, such as the AMS Judicial Affairs Annual Report and the Residence Discipline Report, to report to Senate as required, and to address any matters referred to it by Senate. A revised mandate and committee composition was prepared and considered at a subsequent meeting. However, SONAD did not reach agreement on this matter by the end of the 2007/2008 session. Further discussion is required.

#### 2007-2008 SONAD Membership:

C. Adair, AMS designate  
M. Brown, Student Senator (B.Sc. (Eng) '10)  
A. Farzam-Kia, President SGPS (until March 31, 2008)  
J. Manzanilla, Rector  
R. Mezciems, University Registrar  
G. Moore, (Chair) University Secretariat  
P. Osanic, Faculty of Law/School of Business  
H. Smith, Dispute Resolution (Secretary)  
J. Welsh, President SGPS (from April 1, 2008)