

Senate Committee on Non-Academic Discipline

Annual Report to Senate 2008 - 2009¹

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 four times from October 2008 through February 2009. The agenda topics are described below.

AMS Prosecutor's Report 2007/2008

The AMS Judicial Affairs Office (JAO) Annual Report for 2007 – 2008 was submitted at the September 25, 2008 meeting of the Senate, and referred to SONAD. The prosecutor's report is a summary of the statistics compiled by the AMS Prosecutor's Office regarding non-academic discipline. The information was reviewed by SONAD, concluding that the format and content of the document contributed to an informative Report.

SONAD provided comments to the JAO regarding the information it provides in its report about students who have not fulfilled disciplinary sanctions. SONAD requested that information regarding outstanding sanctions be accompanied by a brief description of the original case.

In several of the cases reported the sanction imposed was a letter of apology, which is intended to cause the student to reflect on his or her behaviour and the damage done to the reputation of the University. A letter of apology should demonstrate some consideration of the harm done to the reputation of the individual, to the student body, and to the value of a Queen's degree.

It is unclear how complaints are transferred from one student society to the other if a complaint is made to the wrong office. It was agreed that once a complaint has been filed, the complainant should not bear the onus of transferring the complaint to the appropriate student society with jurisdiction to investigate the matter.

Residences Discipline Report 2007 - 2008: Summary of Actions

A summary of actions from the Discipline Working Group (DWG) of the Senate Residence Committee is submitted annually to the Senate. The Senate referred the (Residence Discipline) Report to SONAD for review. The information provided in the

¹ 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.

Report regarding non-academic discipline activities, judicial statistics for the reporting period, and issues addressed by the DWG was informative and acceptable to SONAD.

SONAD Mandate and Composition

SONAD identified review of the committee mandate and composition as one of its agenda topics for 2008-09. The functions of SONAD as stated in the Senate Handbook were not accurate. In addition, it was proposed that the composition of the committee be modified. A revised mandate and committee composition was prepared and submitted to the Senate Operations Review Committee, approved by the Senate on April 23, 2009, and effective September 1, 2009.

2007-2008 SONAD Membership:

M. Brown, Student Senator (B.Sc. (Eng) '10)
A. Gendron-O'Donnell, AMS designate
L. Jackson, Rector (Chair)
J. Mantle, B.A. (Hons.) '10
M. Rosner, SGPS designate
G. Moore, University Secretariat
P. Osanic, Faculty of Law/School of Business
S. Ryan, ITS Services
H. Smith, Dispute Resolution (Secretary)