



To: Lon Knox, University Secretary
From: Doug Johnson, President and CEO, Alma Mater Society
Daniel Woolf, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University
Subject: Improvements to the AMS non-academic discipline system

Queen's has a longstanding reputation for unparalleled student engagement and spirit of initiative. The unique broader learning environment at Queen's is rooted in opportunities for student leadership and contribution to governance that affords genuine responsibility. The AMS non-academic discipline system was founded in 1898, with authority delegated by the Senate. Senate most recently reaffirmed support for the AMS peer-administered judicial system, and its driving principles, in 2006 and again in 2008.

Over the past year, the University and the AMS, along with other stakeholders, undertook a comprehensive review of non-academic discipline at Queen's. Subsequent to the review, the University and the AMS have identified several opportunities to improve the AMS system. The AMS and the University are confident that the changes and proposals identified below will further strengthen non-academic discipline at Queen's as it relates to AMS members. The University recognizes the inherent value and efficacy of the AMS non-academic discipline system and unequivocally supports the underlying philosophy of peer-administered discipline

For the 2012-13 academic year, an interim protocol was established for cases that the Provost (or delegate), assumed authority for handling. Outside of the list of items the AMS has established as not being within their jurisdiction¹, the Provost had handled a number of cases involving students on rooftops and malicious activity involving Blue Lights. Going forward the interim protocol will not continue, but rather the improvements and changes outlined below will be followed and implemented. Therefore complaints involving AMS members will be forwarded² to the AMS Commission of Internal Affairs except in the following circumstances:

¹ AMS Constitution Section 10.02.01

² Cases most often originate from Campus Security reports, which will be forwarded to the AMS Commission of Internal Affairs. Other University Offices may also be recipients of complaints and they too shall be forwarded as appropriate.

1. The Residence or Athletic discipline system has sole jurisdiction;
2. The Provost exercises his authority under sections 17 or 36 of the Senate Policy on Student Appeals, Rights, and Discipline (SARD)³;
3. The case falls under AMS policy as offenses not dealt with by the AMS judicial system: blatant discrimination (sexual, racial or otherwise), harassment, sexual assault, serious assault of a non-sexual nature, or murder⁴;
4. The incident is of an academic nature or occurs in an academic setting.

Changes Implemented or In Processes of Implementation

The following is a list of changes the AMS has implemented, or is in the process of implementing, to improve the efficiency and accountability of the non-academic discipline system.

1. Increase expediency in closing cases by establishing a 60-day deadline from the time a case is received to being closed, with sanctions completed.⁵
2. Establish minimum sanctions for Blue Light, rooftop, and alcohol-related cases; progressive sanctions for recurring offences.
3. Create an internal database to make case tracking easier.
4. Introduce alcohol workshops offered through Health, Counselling and Disability Services as a sanction (administered as a sanction 19 times in 2011-2012).
5. Distribute 500+ pamphlets to nearby Kingston residents to promote awareness and engagement with the system
6. Follow up with complainants after Judicial Committee decisions are reached - achieved through collaboration with Campus Security.
7. Able to place fines directly on SOLUS student accounts to ensure payment of fines/restitution.
8. Recommend to the AMS Assembly that weapons related offences be added to the list of items not dealt with by the AMS judicial system.

Opportunities for Future Co-operation

The following is a list of tasks that the AMS, the University, and other stakeholders, will undertake over the 2012-13 academic year to continue to enhance non-academic discipline at Queen's:

1. Develop a comprehensive, jointly-administered online database to be used across all non-academic discipline systems (AMS, Residence, Athletics and Recreation,

³ In instances where the Provost has exercised authority under section 17(c) of SARD, a memo will be sent to the judicial body that would normally have jurisdiction indicating a referral has occurred.

⁴ AMS Constitution Section 10.02.01

⁵ Some sanctions, such as probation or pub bans, may extend or be in effect beyond a 60-day deadline. Chair of judicial committee may extend this deadline beyond 60 days under certain circumstances.

Provostial authority) and will be equally accessible by the various judicial systems and the University.

2. Review the Queen's University Student Code of Conduct with the goal of establishing a "Terms of Agreement" whereby all students, ideally through SOLUS , agree to abide by the Code.
3. In instances where the Provost has exercised authority under section 17(c) of SARD, a memo will be sent to the judicial body that would normally have jurisdiction indicating a referral has occurred.
4. Create a framework for student group discipline.
5. Describe in a concise fashion the entire non-academic discipline system (including the various sub-systems) as an appendix to SARD and the Senate Policy on Non-Academic Discipline.
6. For the areas which the administration, through the Provost or delegate, has authority to act on non-academic disciplinary matters, a process be established to expeditiously render a decision on the matter and, when relevant, impose sanctions. Currently the Provost utilizes USAB in this process, which leaves no internal body to hear appeals.
7. Establish a working group with equal representation of AMS and University members to consider potential recommended changes to the role of the Senate Committee on Non-Academic Discipline in light of the above actions and commitments. The recommendations should be presented to SONAD by November 2012 for its review and referral to the Senate Operations Review Committee as part of the Senate Committee structure review scheduled in 2012-13.



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