Memo

To:   Campus Community
From: Mark Green, Provost and Vice-Principal Academic
Re:   Housekeeping and Appeal Revisions to the Student Code of Conduct
Date: October 7, 2020

Over the last number of months, a working group has been tasked with reviewing the Student Appeals, Rights, and Discipline (SARD) Policy. This policy provides direction on how appeals of both academic and non-academic misconduct may be made to the University Student Appeal Board (USAB). The working group reviewing the SARD policy made a recommendation to the Provost in October 2019 on a revised scope and jurisdiction for USAB concerning non-academic misconduct decisions. The recommendation was to remove the Non-Academic Misconduct matters from the jurisdiction of USAB under the SARD policy. Historically, the Senate oversaw the structures concerning both academic and non-academic misconduct. While non-academic misconduct oversight shifted from the Senate to the Board of Trustees in 2015-16, the appellate structure using USAB as the final level of appeal was maintained due to the complexities associated with revising the Student Code and establishing new structures for initial decision-making. Now that those structures are in place and working well, attention turned to the last piece of non-academic jurisdiction remaining with the Senate (albeit indirectly by delegation of the Board to the USAB). The primary rationale supporting this final change relates to aligning this authority with responsibility for matters of campus and community safety and security, which ultimate rests with the senior administration. This was the principal rationale for the shift of jurisdiction that occurred over 2015 and 2016. This recommendation was presented to the Non-Academic Misconduct Sub Committee (NAMSC) on October 21, 2019 and it was accepted.

To implement this approach, changes are required to the Student Code of Conduct. The changes proposed in this revision to the Code also include some minor editorial and housekeeping changes (e.g. description of the Office of the Ombudsperson role, alignment to other policies etc.). It must be noted that there has been considerable discussion within the campus community and at the NAMSC regarding what changes may be required to more fully address issues of racism on campus. These conversations are ongoing and will result in further dialogue with the university community about the Code. We believe that it is important to have a separate and distinct conversation about that matter, rather than combining potential changes with this proposal, which would involve an omnibus approach and dilute the focus that addressing racism more fully on campus requires. The community can expect to hear more about addressing racism in the Code in the coming months.

Attached are the proposed housekeeping and appeal changes to the Code.
Community feedback is welcomed on these proposed revisions until October 23, 2020. Feedback can be directed to policies@queensu.ca and will be reviewed prior to final approval through the university’s governance structure.