

**Senate Discipline Committee (SDC)
2022-2023 Annual Report**

The Senate Discipline Committee (SDC) submits the following annual report for 2022-2023.

1. Membership (between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023):

Faculty members:

Susan Holmes (Chair)	Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Yassine El-Hiani	Faculty of Medicine
Markus Sharaput	Faculty of Management
Chris Hartt	Faculty of Agriculture
Sarah Kirk	Faculty of Health
Catherine Gunn	Faculty of Health
Roberta Barker	Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Nayha Acharya	Faculty of Law (currently on leave)

Dalhousie Student Union members:

Sydney Keyamo
Alex Leblanc
Natasha Ferguson
Hetang Alpeshkumar Patel
Jessica Telizyn
Mohamed Nashnoush

All student union members are leaving the SDC at the end of this academic year except Natasha Ferguson and Hetang Alpeshkumar Patel will continue with SDC for the rest of this year. Faculty member, Chris Hartt has left SDC. Nayha Acharya is currently on leave and Roberta Barker will be on sabbatical until December 2023 (Both will return to SDC in 2024).

We thank all faculty and student representatives for their outstanding support and dedication throughout an exceptionally busy 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-Provost, Student Affairs. In addition to conducting hearings, the SDC meets annually, or as frequently as required, to discuss relevant issues and to provide training for its members.

The SDC hears allegations of sexualized violence referred from the Vice-Provost, Student Affairs, with the SDC's jurisdiction in those cases narrowed to determining appropriate sanctions

and remedies. There was one sexualized violence case referred to SDC during the 2022-23 year included in the caseload below.

3. Caseload

Total Allegations¹ 50

Total Hearings² 48

First time offenders: 7

Repeat offenders: 43

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	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Agriculture	0	0	0	1	0
Architecture and Planning	0	0	1	0	0
Arts and Social Sciences	7	4	6	12	8
College of Sustainability	0	1	2	0	0
Computer Science	11	20	34	29	35
Dentistry	0	0	0	0	0
Engineering	0	1	5	0	1
Open Learning & Career Development	0	0	0	0	0
Graduate Studies	0	0	0	0	1
Health	0	1	6	0	0
Law	0	0	0	0	0
Management	5	7	7	3	1
Medicine	3	0	0	0	0
Science	16	3	10	7	2
King's College	1	3	0	0	1
Code of Conduct, Sexualized Violence	3	1	0	0	1
Total	46	41	71	52	50

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: 49
Not Proven: 1
Total: 50

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: 7
International: 42
Permanent Resident: 1

c) **Allegations by Course Level**

Level	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1000	16	23	25
2000	30	18	13
3000	12	9	2
4000	6	2	6
5000	7	0	2
6000+	0	0	1
Other (Breach of SVP)	0	0	1

NOTE: In 2022-23 for the 6000+ level, this involved a student plagiarizing on a team project in Computer Science. For the “Other” listed, this refers to Breach of the Sexualized Violence Policy).

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

	2021-22	2022-23
Plagiarism	29	30
Self-Plagiarism	1	1
Copying/Cheating on assignment	6	7
Cheating on exam/test	7	7
Unauthorized Collaboration	8	1
Contract Cheating (Purchased paper)	0	0
Use of unauthorized materials - exam/test/other	0	2
Submitted work prepared by another person	3	0
Fabrication of information	0	1
Code: Breach of sexualized violence policy	0	1

NOTE: The allegations involving unauthorized collaboration appear to be higher in 2021-22 than in 2022-23.

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).

Incidents of Common Penalties	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Writing Centre Requirement	19	25	8
Academic Integrity Module	8	10	21
Study for success, smart goals & time management workshop	3	6	1
Meet with Advisor/AIO to discuss finding and impact on program	13	11	11
Reduction of final class grade/capped grade for class	16	3	6
Reduction of grade for assignment	1	1	2
Grade of "0" on portion of assignment/exam	3	0	0
Grade of "0" on assignment/exam	14	10	10
Notation on transcript	52	36	33
Failure of course	42	32	31
Suspension	19	20	18
Expulsion	3	0	7

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 meet required academic standards, the student may be required to participate in one of the writing workshops or seminars presented by the Dalhousie Writing Centre at the Killam Library. During the pandemic, the Writing Centre pivoted and provided online workshops and one-on-one advising to students in need of assistance due to academic integrity violations. The Writing Centre provides in-person appointments, online and in-person educational support.

The Writing Centre has become a well-used support for students who require further guidance in their writing, research and citation skills. In the last 5 years, many writing centre requirements were 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 and we thank them for the support they provide.

Suspension:

A student may be suspended for a specified time if the case is egregious and/or involves repeat offences. Suspensions are most frequently for one term or year, to a maximum of 3 years. There were 18 suspensions for the 2022-23 academic year.

Expulsion:

Expulsion had occurred on 10 occasions since the 2013-14 academic year, including 3 expulsions issued in 2020-21 academic year. There were 7 expulsions applied for the 2022-23 academic year due to more repeat offenders being referred to SDC.

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.

7. Acknowledgements

The SDC caseload has decreased slightly from 52 cases in 2021-22 academic year to 50 cases in 2022-23. The SDC wishes to thank Bob Mann and Kara Miller for their outstanding support on all aspects of the Committee's activity. They continue to facilitate a smooth and efficient online hearing process that effectively serves student needs.

SDC also wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the Academic Integrity Officers who have increased their caseload, and effectively kept the SDC caseload stable. A special thank you to all panel members who listened with empathy to the struggles that students faced while balancing Dalhousie's standards for academic integrity.

It is worth noting that the work of panel members now involves more expulsions, which carries an emotional burden. It is troubling to see students who continue to offend to the extent that expulsion is the only remaining penalty. Is there a better way?

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Holmes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Holmes, Chair