

Senate Discipline Committee (SDC) 2023-2024 Annual Report

The Senate Discipline Committee (SDC) submits the following annual report for 2023-2024.

1. **Membership** (between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024):

Faculty members:

Susan Holmes (Chair)	Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Yassine El-Hiani	Faculty of Medicine
Markus Sharaput	Faculty of Management (on sabbatical effective Jul 2023)
Sarah Kirk	Faculty of Health
Catherine Gunn	Faculty of Health
Lord Abbey	Faculty of Agriculture
Roberta Barker	Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Nayha Acharya	Faculty of Law (on sabbatical effective Jul 2023)

Student members:

Omotayo Bankole
Nicholas d'Entremont
Natasha Ferguson
Andrew Dyadin
Michelle Pagua
Patricia Doiron
Evan Paulse
Arman Chamanfar
Kirsten Dika
Alanah Ellsworth

Approximately six student union members will continue with SDC for the rest of this year and for the 2024-25 term. Nayha Acharya and Markus Sharaput are on sabbatical until July 2025. (Both will return to SDC in 2025).

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's jurisdiction includes hearing certain allegations pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct and Sexualized Violence policy referred from the Vice-Provost, Student Affairs, its specific authority in Sexualized Violence cases being limited to determining appropriate sanction and remedies in select cases referred by the Vice-Provost. For the reporting period 2023-24, there were no Student Code of Conduct or Sexualized Violence cases heard by the SDC.

3. Caseload

Total Allegations¹ 70

Total Hearings² 67

First time offenders: 9

Repeat offenders: 61

The following chart identifies the number of students with allegations attributable to each Faculty that were heard by the SDC in the applicable academic year. The numbers relate to classes which are part of a specific Faculty and maynot be the home Faculty of the instructor or the student.

Faculty or Unit	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Agriculture	0	0	1	0	0
Architecture and Planning	0	1	0	0	0
Arts and Social Sciences	4	6	12	8	12
College of Sustainability	1	2	0	0	0
Computer Science	20	34	29	35	48
Dentistry	0	0	0	0	1
Engineering	1	5	0	1	1
Open Learning & Career Development	0	0	0	0	0
Graduate Studies	0	0	0	1	0
Health	1	6	0	0	3
Law	0	0	0	0	0
Management	7	7	3	1	1
Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Science	3	10	7	2	4
King's College	3	0	0	1	0
Code of Conduct, Sexualized Violence	1	0	0	1	0
Total	41	71	52	50	70

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 four students would be considered four allegations, but only **one** hearing.

4. Student Statistics

a) **Outcome**

Proven: 64

Not Proven: 6

Total: 70

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: 11

International: 53

Permanent Resident: 6

c) Allegations by Course Level

Level	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1000	23	25	34
2000	18	13	30
3000	9	2	4
4000	2	6	2
5000	0	2	0
6000+	0	1	0
Other	0	1	0

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

	2022-23	2023-24
Plagiarism	32	23
Self-Plagiarism	1	0
Copying/Cheating on assignment	7	18
Cheating on exam/test	6	23
Unauthorized Collaboration	1	0
Contract Cheating (Purchased paper)	0	0
Use of unauthorized materials - exam/test/other	2	3
Submitted work prepared by another person	0	0
Fabrication of information	1	2
Code: Breach of sexualized violence policy	1	0
Academic Fraud	0	1

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	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Writing Centre Requirement	25	8	22
Academic Integrity Module	10	21	9
Study for success, smart goals & time management workshop	6	1	2
Meet with Advisor/AIO to discuss finding and impact on program	11	7	4
Reduction of final class grade/capped grade for class	3	6	4
Reduction of grade for assignment	1	2	0
Grade of “0” on portion of assignment/exam	0	0	0
Grade of “0” on assignment/exam	10	10	12
Notation on transcript	36	33	53
Failure of course	32	31	43
Suspension	20	18	25
Expulsion	0	7	3
Testing of English language skills through EAP program	0	0	1

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. Now post-pandemic, the Writing Centre offers both in-person or video appointments.

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 a repeat offence. Suspensions are most frequently for one term or year, to a maximum of 3 years. There were 25 suspensions for the 2023-24 academic year.

Expulsion:

Expulsion may be applied in cases where a student has numerous offences, remediation is not correcting the pattern, and/or the offence is particularly egregious, such as purchasing and submitting work. There were 0 expulsions for 2021-22, 7 expulsions for 2022-23 and 3 expulsions for 2023-24 academic year.

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.

No penalty or a warning:

A hearing panel may determine that a student has committed an academic offence, but that no penalty or only a warning is appropriate due to a number of mitigating factors. However, even when this might occur, the fact of an academic offence will be recorded on the Senate disciplinary case database.

7. Acknowledgements

The SDC caseload has increased from 50 cases in 2022-23 to 70 cases in 2023-24. The SDC wishes to thank Bob Mann and Kara Miller for their efficiency, outstanding support and helpfulness in all aspects of the Committee's activity. Panel members, especially student panelists who have conscientiously volunteered many hours, deserve special recognition, along with faculty members.

SDC would also like to express gratitude to Dalhousie Student Services advocates who support students during the hearing process. Panel Chairs know that students are adequately prepared to respond to an allegation when they have the assistance of DSAS advocates.

SDC also wishes to acknowledge the Academic Integrity Officers who have demonstrated patience and understanding during many hearings that have often required answers to questions that had been answered in previous hearings.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Holmes, Retired
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Chair 2023-24