

Duke University

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Dear Members of the University Community:

As we welcome the opening of a new academic year and the Class of 2010 to Duke, the Office of Judicial Affairs offers a look back at 2005-06 with respect to student behavior both inside and outside the classroom. Enclosed are reports giving a cumulative summary of the nature of undergraduate misconduct last year and how the Office of Judicial Affairs responded.

The Duke Community Standard (DCS), our undergraduate honor code, underscores fundamental principles of honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, fairness, and respect for others. The behavioral expectations that stem from the DCS (and outlined in the *Bulletin of Information and Regulations*) are the specific policies to which undergraduates are held accountable. This past year our students' extracurricular activities were the subject of intense local and international media scrutiny. In the fall, Alcohol Law Enforcement—an agency of the State of North Carolina—launched a “Back to School” campaign that targeted areas immediately adjacent to East Campus. This resulted in nearly 200 students being cited for violations of state alcohol laws or City of Durham ordinances the opening weekend of the year.

In the spring, the now infamous party of the men's lacrosse team at an off-campus house resulted in the arrest of three members of the team. These events raised questions about the university's philosophy of addressing student misconduct, both on and off campus. Committees appointed by President Brodhead in the aftermath of the lacrosse party examined many facets of the undergraduate disciplinary system and offered suggestions for improvement. A review of these recommendations began over the summer and will continue in 2006-07. Some of the recommendations—such as strengthened communication between the Athletics Department and the Division of Students Affairs (of which the Office of Judicial Affairs is a part)—have already been implemented.

In the fall of 2005 the Office of Judicial Affairs began systematically initiating formal disciplinary action for all allegations of undergraduate misconduct occurring off campus (of which our office became aware) that resulted in a student's citation or arrest, as well as repeated behavior that did not necessarily result in criminal action by law enforcement authorities (e.g., excessive noise). This uniform approach to off-campus behavior was a shift in university philosophy that recognized that students do not shed their affiliation with and representation of Duke when they leave campus. (Previously, our office limited jurisdiction for off-campus behavior to where a student's actions posed a direct or indirect threat to the university community.) The overwhelming number of citations from the fall ALE sting led us to recruit for the first time adjunct hearing officers who helped us process this unexpected influx of cases.

Our total caseload in 2005-06—584 students processed through our system—was higher than the previous five-year average of 541, primarily because of the ALE citations in the fall. A majority of the total violations as might be expected, therefore, were alcohol-related: there were 255 student violations of the Alcohol Policy. Of significant concern is that 88 additional students were granted “amnesty” (no formal disciplinary action taken for a violation of the Alcohol Policy because medical attention was sought). This figure is almost double that of last year. Also, the number of students who went to the Emergency Department for alcohol-related incidents surged 59% over 2004-05, from 29 to 46. The Undergraduate Judicial Board also suspended several students this past year—typically for two semesters—for violating university expectations after the students’ arrest for DWI, either on or off campus.

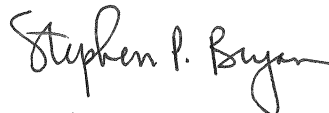
The overall number of students suspended was lower this past year, down to 20 from 33 in 2004-05. There were no expulsions. A higher number of cases (49 versus a five-year average of 18) were dropped because of a lack of sufficient information. The number of repeat offenders declined: only 9% of those we processed had been through our system before, compared to a five-year average of 16%. We also increased the use of mediation as a way of resolving some cases.

In the realm of academic integrity, 62 students were brought to the attention of the Office of Judicial Affairs for allegations of academic dishonesty. This figure is on par with our previous five-year average. More of these cases were resolved through use of the “faculty-student resolution” option (up to 33 from 15 in 2004-05), which allows an instructor to resolve a violation directly with a student. We attribute this increase partially to greater faculty commitment to expectations outlined in the Faculty Handbook for addressing academic dishonesty (specifically, that they consult with my office anytime they suspect cheating).

In 2005-06 the Office of Judicial Affairs strengthened efforts to reach out to the neighborhoods surrounding Duke in which a number of students live (Trinity Park and Trinity Heights), and this will continue in 2006-07. We are committed to educating students about the responsibilities they have in their community, especially when they travel off campus.

I invite you to examine the enclosed statistics more closely and make your own observations. Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Best wishes for the new academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen P. Bryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S' and 'B'.

Stephen P. Bryan
Associate Dean of Students
& Director of Judicial Affairs