

Code of Student Conduct Annual Report July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Overview

Dalhousie's Code of Student Conduct (approved by Senate, June 9, 2014; revised October 27, 2014) establishes norms of acceptable behavior for students on campus or engaged in university events and activities. When a student is perceived to violate these norms, any individual can submit a complaint to the Vice Provost, Student Affairs. The Code makes provision for an investigation of the complaint and where there is sufficient evidence that an offence has been committed, the complaint may be referred to the Senate Discipline Committee or result in an informal disposition if mutually agreed upon by the parties involved.

Handling of Complaints

The Office of the Vice Provost, Student Affairs receives complaints from individuals regarding possible infractions to the Code of Student Conduct. The procedures for making and receiving of complaints are under section "D. Procedures" of the Code. The Code also deems "wherever possible and appropriate reasonable and informal measures shall be used to resolve issues of individual behaviour. Wherever appropriate, such informal resolutions are based on the principles of restorative justice helping offenders to see clearly the impact of what they have done and providing them with an opportunity to make amends.

A restorative process may be used if agreed upon by all parties as an informal resolution. This process allows students to accept responsibility for their actions and repair the harms caused by their behavior. The process also allows the students, victims, and other members of the Dalhousie or Halifax community to have a voice and collectively decide upon the appropriate outcomes.

Summary of Cases

During the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016:

- x Seven Student Code of Conduct complaints were received:
 - o Six were offences against persons, one of which also included unauthorized possession of a firearm or weapon
 - o One was a submission of false information

- x One Code of Student Conduct case (offences against persons) was brought forward from 2015 as it is still active and investigation of the complaint is deferred until criminal proceedings against the student have concluded.

Of the severcases which proceeded:

- x Three were referred to the Senate Discipline Committee for formal hearing
- x Three were resolved informally in this manner:
 - o One personal reflection
 - o One letter of apology and personal reflection essay
 - o One restorative justice process
- x One investigation deferred pending conclusion