

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON 6

STUDENT PERSONNEL OFFICE
ADVISER OF MEN
COMMITTEE ON STUDENT LIFE AND INTERESTS

May 11, 1948

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Attached is a beginning on a report concerning the handling of cases of student conduct irregularities. This material is to supplement your information in connection with the discussion initiated by Dr. Washburne on some aspects of this problem. It is also assumed that revisions in the material will result from such discussion. In particular, the proposed section D, Recommendations for Improvement of Procedures will be thus forthcoming.

This material is not being submitted with a request for approval, but rather as a first step in the formulation of a report which represents the thinking of those responsible for dealing with problems of student conduct.

Paul L. Trump

Enc.

STUDENT CONDUCT CASES

A summary report to cover the three regular semesters beginning February 1947 and ending April 17, 1948, indicating:

- A. Digest of current philosophy and practice with respect to the handling of cases of violation of standards of student conduct (outside the classroom).
- B. Description of procedures.
- C. Summary lists and descriptions of cases handled.
- D. Recommendations for improvement of procedures.

A listing of questions is appended.

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A. CURRENT PHILOSOPHY

Two factors have been considered, namely the welfare of the University community and the welfare of the individual. In general, the purpose of disciplinary action is to prevent continued misbehavior in the student group. This end may be sought by punishment of individuals, by taking corrective measures with respect to the group environment, and/or by therapeutic discipline in the reorientation or education of the individual.

Several principles relating to student conduct irregularities are listed as aspects of the philosophy under which we seek to function at the University of Wisconsin.

1. Punitive discipline is a narrow concept of discipline and has a very limited deterrent effect in cases of major behavior problems and especially in cases involving severe emotional disturbance or psychopathic behavior. The application of group pressure and authority will merely exaggerate an individual's difficulty.

2. Discipline is a part of the educative process, corrective rather than punitive. This implies that where punishment is considered appropriate, the punishment must be designed to fit the individual rather than the crime.

3. Therapeutic discipline may properly involve suspension as a student. In most cases it is desirable to aid the student in his readjustment while continuing as a member of the student group. In most such cases this is possible without prejudice to the morale of the student group.

4. Emphasis in discipline must be on the individual's motivation and upon his responsibility as a member of a group, rather than upon his inadequacy in getting caught. Adeptness at avoiding detection is not an educational objective.

5. Disciplinary action must seek to strengthen rather than destroy the self-respect of the individual if he is to be successful in his efforts to discover and solve his difficulty.

6. Clinical psychologists and professional counselors must be available in making proper diagnosis and in carrying out appropriate remedial programs, particularly in cases involving severely disturbed or psychopathic individuals and in cases of subtly hidden causes of difficulty.

A. CURRENT PHILOSOPHY (CONT'D.)

7. After a disciplinary action is taken, counseling should be provided to assist offender in understanding and accepting the verdict.

8. The procedures involved in the investigation of a conduct case should be carried out with promptness.

9. Relationships between those of university staff responsible for conduct cases, the local police, the courts, the student health service, and the colleges concerned, must be coordinated and cooperative.

10. A student apprehended by civil authorities in violation of law is not to be protected from regular legal processes by virtue of his status as a student.

11. After a student has been subjected to the due processes of law in the hands of the civil authorities, or by request, during such process, the University must assume its responsibility. This includes the responsibilities of diagnosis, medical treatment, therapeutic discipline and concern for the best interests of the student group.

B. DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES IN CONDUCT CASES.

Male students guilty of legal infractions or undesirable conduct are usually reported to the office of Student Personnel Services. In the case of police arrests, a copy of the officer's report is sent to this office. The charge is stated, together with the facts as they have been ascertained by the police officer. Usually the disposition of the case in court is indicated by a penciled notation. The case is in some instances referred to university authorities. In most instances the university's action is upon its own initiative and independent of civil action. Anyone may refer a case of undesirable student conduct to the Student Personnel Office.

Upon receiving such facts and accusations, the offender is asked to come in for an interview. At this time he is informed of the information we have received. He is asked to give his version of the facts and, for the record, is asked to submit his statement in writing. Appropriate individuals are contacted when the case appears to warrant such contacts (house counsellors, faculty advisers, college officials, etc.)

The interviewer submits a report to the Adviser of Men, giving the facts as reported both by the student and others, together with the information available in the student's personnel file. A recommendation accompanies this report, whereupon the Adviser of Men must determine the next step. This usually involves one of the following alternatives.

1. The closing of the case. A notation is made upon the student's personnel record indicating the presence of material concerning the student in the Conduct File, and the material is so filed.

2. The individual may be called in by the Adviser of Men for further counsel.

3. The case may be referred to the Department of Student Health for further diagnosis and recommendation.

4. The case may be referred to the Student Counselling Center.

5. The case may be referred directly to the Faculty Committee on Student Conduct, or eventually to said committee following steps 3 or 4.

The Faculty Committee on Student Conduct is the only university agency authorized to take disciplinary action.

The Conduct Committee may call in representatives of the Student Personnel Office familiar with the case for council and information. Actions of the Conduct Committee are reported to the office of the dean of the college and to the office of Student Personnel.

QUESTIONS:

1. Should actions on conduct cases be taken by administrative officers of the University rather than by a faculty committee?
2. How can we further implement the philosophy presented within reasonable budget limitations?
3. Should cases of student conduct arising in all departments and divisions of the University be reported and processed in the same manner?
4. What can we propose in the way of taking preventive measures (for example, by examining admissions information, admissions, testing, etc., and establishing counselling contacts in cases of suspected difficulty)?
5. What problems do you see in the relationship of the University with the law? Should cases of violation of law which come directly to our attention be turned over the police?
Should we seek to encourage referrals from police?
How can we aid the student at the time of his arrest to obviate some of the difficulties which have produced dissatisfaction with police methods? Typical charge by students is "I was not allowed to use the phone to make bail and had to stay in jail all night."
6. What should be our policy of communication with parents?
7. What suggestions can we pass on to the Conduct Committee in the matter of appropriate disciplinary actions?
8. Should the offending student be allowed representation in a proceedings before the conduct committee. If so, how is he limited in his choice, i.e. to faculty, student body, members of his family etc.
9. Should the interviewer obtain testimony from others not members of the University community in cases of disputed questions of fact?
10. Shall any effort be made to influence publicity in the case of a student delinquent?

C. SUMMARY OF CASES HANDLED - January, 1947, to date

Type	Initiated by Univ.	Reported by Madison Police	Total
1. Sex Misdemeanor	7	19	26
1. Interviewed - case closed 8 ✓			
2. " - referred to Dr. Washburne - case closed 6 ✓			
3. " - referred to Dr. Washburne - referred to Conduct Comm. 3 ✓			
4. " - Referred to Conduct Comm. 8 ✓			
5. " - referred to Dr. Washburne - pending 1			
2. Larceny	1	6	7
1. Interviewed - referred to Conduct Comm. 6 ✓			
2. " - referred to Counseling Center and Conduct Committee 1 ✓			
3. Drunk and Disorderly		13	13
1. Interviewed - case closed 10 ✓			
2. " - referred to Conduct Comm. 1 ✓			
3. " - referred to Dr. Washburne - referred to Conduct Comm. 1 ✓			
4. " - referred to Dr. Washburne - case closed 1 ✓			
4. O.M.V.W.I.		12	12
1. Interviewed - case closed 11 ✓			
2. " - referred to Counseling Center - case closed 1 ✓			
5. Disorderly Conduct			
(a) Minor case (prank)	3	20	23
1. Interviewed - case closed 23 ✓			
(b) More Serious Cases	4	8	12
1. Interviewed - case closed 4 ✓			
2. " - referred to Dr. Washburne - case closed 1 ✓			
3. " - referred to Conduct Committee 7 ✓			
6. Drunk		16	16
1. Interviewed - case closed 14 ✓			
2. " - referred to Dr. Washburne - case closed 1 ✓			
3. " - referred to Conduct Comm. 1 ✓			
7. Miscellaneous	2	4	6
1. Interviewed - case closed 4 ✓			
2. " - referred to Conduct Comm. 2 ✓			

TOTAL ALL CASES 115

Interview Case closed 74
 Inter-Dr. Wash. - closed 9
 " " Conduct Comm 4
 Ref. Cond. Comm 25
 Counseling center - Cond. Comm 1
 " " closed 1
 Dr. Wash. pending 1

Interview closed 74
 Interview Wash 9
 1
 84

Cond. Comm 25
 Direct Wash 4
 Counseling 1
 30

115