SD.20.01 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Student Discipline

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on Student Discipline (SD) during the 2019-2020 academic year. SD met on September 23, October 28, November 18, January 27, February 24, March 23, April 13, and May 28. Additional information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. Actions Taken by the Committee

Sanctioning Guidance for Noncompliance
On October 28, SD considered a proposal from the Director of the Office for Student Conflict Resolution (OSCR) to expand and clarify the sanctioning guidance for noncompliance. The proposal distinguished between noncompliance with university sanctions, minor noncompliance with university officials or law enforcement, and noncompliance with safety-focused requirements (such as those issued by the university’s threat assessment teams). SD approved the proposal.

Staff Service on the Subcommittees on Undergraduate and Graduate Student Conduct
At the request of SD members, OSCR staff drafted a proposal that would allow staff to serve on the Subcommittees on Undergraduate and Graduate Student Conduct. That proposal was discussed at the November 18 and January 27 meetings and ultimately approved on January 27.

Organizational Discipline
Over the course of several meetings, SD discussed a proposal from the Director of OSCR that would substantially change how the university investigates and adjudicates allegations against Registered Student Organizations. The proposal advocated for the retirement of the Boards of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs and the creation of a new Subcommittee on Organizational Conduct that would be responsible for all serious RSO cases. SD members amended the proposal and ultimately approved the proposal at the February 24 meeting.

Sanctioning Guidance for Marijuana Violations
On February 24, SD considered a proposal from University Housing that would modify the sanctioning guidance for marijuana violations. In short, the new guidance would not recommend dismissal until the fourth simple possession/use violation (Previous guidance recommended dismissal for the third violation.). SD discussed and approved the proposal at this meeting.
Removal of Garrity Procedures
On February 24 and at the recommendation of the Director of OSCR and the Office of University Counsel, SD removed the Garrity Procedure section of the Student Disciplinary Procedures and replaced it with a statement explicitly authorizing the Criminal/Disciplinary History Review Committee to issue formal and educational sanctions to students who, during the application process, report concerning criminal or disciplinary history.

COVID-19 Emergency Procedures
On March 23, SD issued a set of emergency modifications to the Student Disciplinary Procedures that would explicitly allow for all disciplinary meetings, investigative meetings, and formal hearings to be conducted virtually until the first business meeting of the Fall 2020 semester. These emergency procedures were immediately posted on the OSCR website and linked from the We Care website.

Formal Sanction Revisions
On April 13, a subgroup of SD members and OSCR staff presented a proposal to modify the definition of Conduct Probation and to replace the entry for Formal Sanction Held in Abeyance with an entry for Dismissal Held in Abeyance. In short, the proposal strengthened the Conduct Probation language to clarify that students should expect to be suspended or dismissed if they fail to complete assigned educational sanctions or if they violate university policy while under the status. The proposal further granted OSCR the power to impose dismissal for a student who is placed on Dismissal Held in Abeyance status by a committee but does not comply with the educational sanctions also issued, and clarified that this decision could still be appealed to SD. SD discussed the proposal, modified it slightly, and approved it, all at the April 13 meeting.

Subcommittee Selection
On April 13, SD approved the entire slate of new members for the Subcommittees on Undergraduate Student Conduct, Graduate Student Conduct, and Sexual Misconduct as proposed by the selection committee. On May 28, SD approved seven additional interim appointments to the Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Conduct. These were all former members of the Board of Fraternity Affairs, the Board of Sorority Affairs, or one of the council judicial boards.

II. Items Under Consideration by the Committee

SCSD Bylaws Revision
SD has drafted a new set of bylaws and intends to submit them for consideration by the Senate during the 2020-2021 academic year.
Title IX Regulatory Changes
SD will meet on August 7, 2020, to consider procedural changes required by the Department of Education’s newly issued Title IX regulations. The required implementation date is August 14, 2020.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE
Pat Gill, Chair
Lynn Barnett Morris (removed due to nonattendance)
Carolyn Beck
Meghan Burke
Darin Eastburn
Arne Fliflet
David Forsyth
Sarah Jaeger
Yuan-Xiang Pan
Kirk Sanders
Chenshilong Sun (removed due to nonattendance)
Kabir Thombre
Sam Nardella
Nicholas Shapland
Sudarshana Rao (removed due to nonattendance)
Justin Brown, ex officio