

ANNUAL REPORT: COAM
SUMMER 2001 - SPRING 2002

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The Committee on Academic Misconduct has worked hard to uphold the standards of the University by serving as an impartial hearing body in cases of alleged academic misconduct. Hearings are conducted using hearing panels generally comprised of 3 faculty and 2 student members. These panels receive information about hearings just prior to the hearing to assure that members of the hearing panel are not entering hearings with preconceived ideas about the case in question.

The work of the Committee is facilitated by the Coordinator who arranges hearings, consults with students and faculty, communicates hearing outcomes to students and the faculty bringing the charges, and interfaces with the larger university. With the approval of the Revised Code of Students Conduct, the coordinator was able to conduct administrative hearings for selected cases.

FINDINGS

During the 2001-2002 academic year, the committee heard 331 cases, 44 more than the previous year. These hearing outcomes are summarized in **Table 1** (all numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number). Of the 331 cases heard, 277 (83.7%) students were found to be in violation of the academic code of conduct; 54 (16.3%) students were found not to be in violation of the academic code of conduct. As can be observed in **Table 4** in descending order the majority of cases of alleged misconduct heard by COAM originated from the 100 level course (n=169, 51.1%), followed by the 200 level course (n=52, 15.7%), 300 level course (n=41, 12.4%), 500 and 600 level course (n=25, 7.6%). There were no reports of alleged academic misconduct from the 000 and 900 level courses.

The college of enrollment and rank of students accused of academic misconduct is displayed in **Table 6**. As demonstrated in **Table 6**, 319 of the students were enrolled in 18 colleges and 12 students were enrolled in the graduate school. Of the cases heard from academic units (see **Table 5**), 43 (13%) of the cases heard were from Chemistry, 35 (10.6%) were from Computer and Information Sciences, 33(10%) were from History, followed by 13 (3.9%) from English, 13 (3.9%) from Math, and 12 (3.6%) from Physics. The remaining cases heard originated from 53 other academic units.

In **Table 2** are the charges upon which students were found to be in violation of the academic code, Summer 2001 – Spring 2002. Finally, in Table 3 are the University sanctions imposed upon students found in violation of the Code of Academic Conduct. Of the 277 sanctions applied, 172 (62.1%) involved disciplinary probation and a

recommendation of “0” on the assignment; 26 (9.4%) involved disciplinary probation; 23 (8.3%) involved conduct probation and a recommendation of “0” on the assignment; 31 (11.2%) were formal reprimands; and 7 (2.5%) resulted in suspension. The Committee also made grade recommendations to faculty in 246 (88.8%) of the cases where a finding of “in violation: was reached.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF COAM: 2001-2002

During the 2001-2002 academic year, COAM held one general meeting during the Autumn quarter and one during Spring quarter. COAM members elected its Chair and discussed the procedures of the committee and sanctions.

A trend noted this year was the continued rise in cases involving plagiarism. With increasing use of the internet, this trend has continued from the 2000-2001 year. The rise in reporting cases of plagiarism has most likely resulted from teachers becoming better at detecting instances of plagiarism with increasing skill at using search engines to find the sources from which the students derive work. With the rising use of internet sources by students, it becomes increasingly important for teachers to educate students in the proper use of internet sources and the mechanism for citing these sources.

SUMMARY

This committee views its function within the University as vital to maintenance of the integrity of the degrees awarded by The Ohio State University. Therefore, COAM carefully weighs the circumstances presented in each case to reach a just decision based on the evidence available during a hearing and assure due process to each student against whom allegations have been made.

Academic misconduct remains a problem at The Ohio State University. Cases forwarded to the Committee on Academic Misconduct most likely reflect only a fraction of the actual incidences of academic misconduct. COAM has worked diligently to provide students with due process and to assure as much as possible consistency across hearing panels.

The Committee remains available to serve as a resource to educate the academic community about how to deal with alleged academic misconduct and the procedures for referral if needed. The committee views the education of new faculty and as about academic misconduct and the procedure for reporting suspected instances as vital to maintaining the academic integrity of the University.

TABLE 1

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
HEARINGS AND OUTCOMES
SUMMER, 2001- SPRING, 2002

QUARTER OF HEARING	NUMBER FOUND IN VIOLATION	NUMBER FOUND NOT IN VIOLATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF HEARINGS
SU'01	58	12	70
AU'01	49	11	60
WI'02	62	12	74
SP'02	108	19	127
TOTAL	277	54	331

TABLE 2

CHARGES UPON WHICH STUDENTS WERE FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION
OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
SUMMER, 2001- SPRING, 2002

CHARGE*	NUMBER FOUND IN VIOLATION
Plagiarism	93
Giving and/or receiving aid in an unauthorized manner	66
Submission of another's work as one's own	63
Copying the work of another	53
Unauthorized collaboration	29
Alteration of an examination and resubmission in an attempt to change the earned grade or credit	24
Possession and/or use of unauthorized materials	14
Submission of work not performed in lab	13
Fabrication or falsification of data of information for an assignment	11
Alteration of administrative paperwork, forgery	9
Serving as or enlisting the assistance of a substitute for a student in the taking of an exam	5
Failure to comply with course policies	4
Submission of work previously submitted for a grade	3
Other forms of academic misconduct	10

*Students are frequently found in violation of more than one charge therefore the total number of charges exceeds the number of cases heard.

TABLE 3
Hearing Outcomes and Sanctions Summarized by Class Rank
Summer, 2001 - Spring, 2002

SANCTION / RANK		1	2	3	4	M	P	Other	TOTAL
Formal Reprimand		1	1	1					3
Formal Reprimand (Recommend Grade Reduction on Assignment)				1		4		1	6
Formal Reprimand (Recommend "0" on Assignment)		5	9	4	4				22
Conduct Probation	3 qt.					1			1
Conduct Probation Recommend "0" on Assignment	1 qt.	1				1			2
	2 qt.	1	1		1				3
	3 qt.	5	5	3	1				14
	Grad.				4				4
Disciplinary Probation	2 qt.			1					1
	3 qt.	3	4	4				1	12
	6 qt.	1							1
	Grad.	2	4	2	3	1			12
Disciplinary Probation – Recommend "0" on Assignment	2 qt.		3		1				4
	3 qt.	31	42	29	7	1	1	3	114
	4 qt.		2						2
	6qt.	1							1
	Grad.	1	2	2	44		2		51
Disciplinary Probation – Recommend Grade Reduction	3 qt.		1	1	1				3
	Grad.				2				2
Disciplinary Probation Recommend "E" in Course	3 qt.		1				1		2
	Grad.	1	3	2	3			1	10
Suspension	4 qt.			1					1
Suspension – Recommend '0' on Assignment	1qt.		1	1					2
Suspension – Recommend "E" or "U" in Course	1 qt.		1		2				3
	8qt.					1			1
NOT IN VIOLATION		10	19	9	14			2	54
TOTAL		63	99	61	88	8	4	8	331

TABLE 4

Course Numbers of Cases of Alleged Misconduct Heard by COAM
Summer, 2000 – Spring 2001

Course Number	SU'01	AU'01	WI'02	SP'02	Total
000	0	0	0	0	0
100	31	36	44	58	169
200	5	2	18	27	52
300	18	5	8	10	41
400	1	1	0	3	5
500	6	5	1	14	26
600	8	9	2	6	25
700	0	2	1	5	8
800	0	0	0	3	3
900	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	0	0	1	2
TOTAL	70	60	74	127	331

TABLE 5
Departments from which Cases of Alleged Misconduct Were Heard Bu COAM
Summer 2001– Spring 2002

Department	SU'01	AU'01	WI'02	SP'02	Total
Acct&MIS		1	6	2	9
Aero Eng				1	1
Ani Sci	1				1
Ani Tech			1		1
Anthrop				3	3
Art			1		1
Aviation		1			1
Biology	2	6		2	10
Bio Tech				1	1
Bus Fin		2			2
Bus-Mgt	8				8
Bus-M&L				2	2
Chem	8	6	10	19	43
Classics	2			2	4
Cptr/Inf	6	3	10	16	35
Crp&Soil				1	1
Econ		1	4	2	7
Edu PAES	1			1	2
Edu P&L	1			1	2
Edu T&L	2	1	3	1	7
Elec Eng	1			4	5
Engineer				3	3
English	5	2	4	2	13
Fm Res M			2		2
French		1			1
Gen Comm				2	2
Gen S Sc			1		1
Geol Sci			5	5	10
Geog				2	2

German			2	1	3
History	8	6	9	10	33
IBGP		2			2
Ind Eng		3		2	5
Int Stds				1	1
J Comm	1		1	1	3
LARCH		1		2	3
MatSc&En				2	2
Math	2	4	2	5	13
MCD Bio				1	1
Mech Eng	2			2	4
Medieval				2	2
Music	6	2		2	10
Nursing				1	1
Persian	2				2
Pharmacy	1			1	2
Philos	1			1	2
Physics		6	3	3	12
Polit Sc		4	1	4	9
Psych	1				1
Russian			2		2
Spanish			1		1
Sph/Hrng			1		1
Sociol	4	2		3	9
Soc Work				1	1
Stat	2	3	3	2	10
Theatre		1	1		2
Txtl&Clo	1			2	3
Wom Stds	1	2	1	5	9
Administrative Office	1			1	2
TOTAL	70	60	74	127	331

TABLE 6

College of Enrollment and Rank of Students Accused of Academic Misconduct
 Summer, 2001 - SPRING, 2002

College or School	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Other Ranks	College Total
AGR		2	2	2		6
AHR				5		5
AMP	1		1			2
ART	2	1		3		6
ASC	10	25	20	36	1	92
ATI	5	3	1			9
BUS	4	14	6	10	2	36
CED				1	3	4
DHY			1			1
EDU			2	1		3
ENG	5	12	13	18		48
HEC	1	4	5	9		19
JUR				1		1
NRE	1	1				2
PHP		1				1
PHR	1					1
SWK				1		1
UVC/USS	33	36	10	1	2	82
Total Undergraduate	63	99	61	88	8	319

College	Rank M	Rank P	Total – Graduate Students
GRD	8	4	12

Grand Total 331