

U of A Code of Student Behavior

by Ann Grever

If you're planning to copy a test, borrow an essay, beat up your professor or break into a university computer system, then know the consequences.

The university has come up with a spanking new Code of Student Behavior that tells you what you can get away with. General Faculties Council (GFC) passed the code on May 28.

The code's revisions were based on the suggestions of the discipline panels.

"Rather than deal with the suggestions in a piecemeal fashion, we undertook a thorough revision."

The code is clearer now. For example, in the area of academic dishonesty, plagiarism is defined. The procedure to process charges is now outlined.

The code may mean less work for discipline panels. "For offences that the student will not be expelled or suspended from the university, rather than use a disciplinary panel, the Dean of Students, Peter Miller, is consulted."

The code covers newer offences such as library and computer offences. Forgeries of parking permits, improper use of fire equipment and other misuse of university property are also covered.

The new code makes provisions for an instructor to exclude a student from a particular class for disruptive behavior.

A student can now be suspended from university if the dean of the faculty believes a student has violated the Code of Student Behavior and "constitutes a danger or risk of danger to University students, staff or property or to persons or property in the wider university community."

43. CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR, STUDENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND STUDENT GROUP REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

43.1 INTRODUCTION

The University is defined by tradition as a community of people dedicated to the pursuit of truth and advancement of knowledge, and as a place where there is freedom to teach, freedom to engage in research, freedom to create, freedom to learn, freedom to study, freedom to speak, freedom to associate, freedom to write and to publish, and a concomitant obligation to respect these freedoms when they are exercised by others.

The offences listed below describe, in general terms, behaviors which if left unchecked would, to an unacceptable degree, infringe upon these freedoms and thus threaten the proper functioning of the University.

Nothing in this Code shall prevent the University from referring an individual matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency should such action be considered necessary.

43.2 NON-ACADEMIC OFFENCES

1. Disruptions

(a) No student shall, by action, words, written material, or by any means whatsoever, knowingly obstruct University activities. University activities include but are not limited to, teaching, research, studying, administration, meetings, and public service.

(b) Nothing in this Code shall be construed to prohibit peaceful assemblies and demonstrations, lawful picketing, or to inhibit free speech.

2. Unauthorized Entry and/or Presence

No student shall, contrary to express instructions or with intent to damage, destroy, convert or misappropriate University property or without proper authority, enter or remain in any University building, facility, room, or office. Facilities include but are not limited to the following: parking lots, athletic fields, campus buildings and campus areas.

3. Misappropriation, Damage and Destruction of Property

(a) No student shall knowingly misappropriate, convert, destroy or otherwise damage University property, nor shall any student knowingly misappropriate or convert, destroy or otherwise damage any property not his/her own on University property.

(b) No student, in any manner whatsoever, shall knowingly deface the inside or outside of any building or property of the University.

4. Physical Abuses, Harassment and Dangerous Activity

No student shall

(a) physically abuse another person, threaten any other person with physical abuse or damage to such person's property or knowingly, and without just cause, cause any other person to fear physical abuse or fear damage to his or her property; or

(b) knowingly create a condition which unnecessarily endangers or threatens the health, safety or wellbeing of other persons or threatens the damage or destruction of property.

5. Sexual Harassment

No students shall sexually harass another member of the University community. Sexual harassment shall be defined as unsolicited, unwanted sexual advances, or requests for sexual favors, unsolicited, unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, and unsolicited, unwanted written or visual material of a sexual nature.

6. Possession of Misappropriated Property

No student shall possess University property or property of any member of the University community without the consent or authority of the University or member of the University community as the case may be.

7. Unauthorized Use of University Facilities, Equipment or Services

No student shall knowingly use any University facility, equipment or service contrary to express instruction or without proper authority.

8. Misuse of University Supplies or Documents

No student shall, without authority, knowingly make, alter, use, receive, or possess University supplies or documents. University supplies and documents include but are not limited to equipment, keys, records, and permits.

9. Misuse of Library or Computer Resources

(a) No student shall knowingly remove books or other library material from a University library without proper authorization, mutilate or deface library books or material, purposely misplace them or in any other way purposely deprive other members of the University of the opportunity to have access to library resources.

(b) No student shall knowingly use any University computer or computer-related facility without proper authorization.

10. Picketing and Demonstration

No student shall, on University property individually or with a group and in connection with a demonstration including a rally or picketing:

(a) knowingly use words which threaten violence or physical abuse to any group or individual whether or not the group or individual thus threatened knows of such threatening words; or

(b) knowingly use words in a situation of clear and imminent danger which incite others to behaviour which violates any article of this Section.

11. Identification

No student shall refuse to provide identification upon request by a University Official or employee acting in the course of his or her duties, where the University official or employee has reason to believe an individual is committing, has committed or is about to commit an offence.

43.3 ACADEMIC OFFENCES.

The integrity of University life and of the degrees the University confers is dependent upon the honesty and soundness of the teacher-student learning relationship and, as well, that of the evaluation process. Conduct by any member of the University community that adversely affects this relationship or process must, therefore, be considered a serious offence.

1. Plagiarism

(a) No student shall, with intent to deceive, represent the works or ideas of another person as his or her own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project or assignment submitted in a course or program of study or represent as his or her own an entire essay or work of another, whether the material so represented constitutes a part or the entirety of the work submitted.

(b) Upon demonstration that the student has represented another person's words or ideas as his or her own, the student shall bear the burden of providing such explanation or evidence as is capable of raising a reasonable doubt in the mind of the person or body hearing the case that there was an intent to deceive.

2. Cheating

No student shall:

(a) in the course of an examination obtain or attempt to obtain information from another student or unauthorized source or give or attempt to give information to another student, or knowingly possess, use or attempt to use any unauthorized material;

(b) represent or attempt to represent oneself as another or have or attempt to have oneself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity;

(c) submit in any course or program of study, without both the knowledge and approval of the person to whom it is submitted, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project or assignment for which credit has previously been obtained or which has been or is being submitted in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

(d) submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project or assignment containing a statement of fact known by the student to be false or a reference to a source which reference or source has been fabricated.

3. Confidential Materials

It shall be an offence to knowingly procure, distribute, or receive any confidential academic material such as pending examinations or laboratory results from any source without prior and express consent of the instructor.

4. Misrepresentation of Facts

It shall be an offence to knowingly misrepresent material facts to another for the purpose of obtaining academic advantage or credit.

5. Specific Faculty Offences

Faculties will be required to define and publicize any academic offences unique to their individual Faculty, together with attendant penalties, both of which must be filed with and approved by the Campus Law Review Committee.

43.4 PENALTIES

1. Definitions

a) Fine:

A fine shall mean an order for payment of a sum certain by the student to the University of Alberta. Subject to agreement between the student and the University however, and subject to availability of appropriate work the fine may be paid in whole or in part through the provision of services. Calculation of the value of the work shall be in accordance with rates normally paid for the position to be occupied.

b) Suspension:

Occurs where a student is required to withdraw completely from the University for a specified period of time, to a maximum of three years. Upon expiry of this period of suspension the student will be permitted to re-enrol in the program from which he or she was suspended.

c. Expulsion:

Occurs where a student is required to withdraw completely from the University for an indefinite period of time and shall not be permitted to return without the approval in writing of the Vice-President (Academic) in consultation with the Faculty from which the student was expelled. Such approval shall not be given before the expiry of three years.

2. Penalties

In the case of a breach of the Code of Student Behaviour the following penalties may be imposed at the discretion of a disciplinary panel or appeal board.

a) For non-academic offences

- (i) Expulsion,
- (ii) Suspension,
- (iii) A fine of not more than \$500.00,
- (iv) Reprimand,
- (v) Exclusion from specified areas of the University.

b) For academic offences

- (i) Expulsion,
- (ii) Suspension,
- (iii) An academic penalty consistent with University, Faculty, or Departmental rules,
- (iv) Reprimand,
- (v) Academic probation.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUP REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

1. Definitions

(a) Student Group

For the purposes of these regulations, the term "student group" shall include, but not be limited to, club, association, organization, society, fraternity, sorority, fellowship.

(b) Panel

A University Disciplinary Panel consists of three persons, two of whom must be students, who have been selected from lists approved by GFC to hear complaints against students as contained in the Code of Students Behaviour.