

# OFFICE OF STUDENT JUDICIAL AFFAIRS (OSJA)

<http://www.ualberta.ca/osja>



## ANNUAL REPORT 2008 - 2009



UNIVERSITY OF  
ALBERTA

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OSJA ANNUAL REPORT  
2008/09

**Office of Student Judicial Affairs Mandate**

The Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA) is mandated to deal with issues around the Code of Student Behaviour. Approaching the Code in terms of awareness, prevention and student discipline, the OSJA strives to ensure that students understand the expectations placed upon them by the Code and are able to participate freely and fully in the university community.



The OSJA is responsible for engaging in prevention activities, most notably the Truth In Education (TIE) academic integrity program. Activities include presentations to classes, departments, and other groups as requested, annual production of the *Academic Integrity Handbook for Instructors and TAs* and maintaining an academic integrity website, found at [www.ualberta.ca/tie](http://www.ualberta.ca/tie).

When students do engage in behaviour that violates the Code of Student Behaviour, one of the two Discipline Officers in the OSJA investigates the allegations and makes decisions according to the procedures set out in the Code. Faculty Associate Deans (mostly academic offences) and Campus Security Services or Unit Directors (non-academic offences) refer files with recommendations for sanctions. The Discipline Officer meets with the accused student(s), investigates the complaint if the facts are in dispute, then makes a decision on whether the student violated the Code and, if so, what sanctions are warranted, using the recommendation from the Complainant as a starting point.

**Organization**

Throughout the 2008/09 academic year, Deborah Eerkes was the Director of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. In this position she administers the office, runs the preventative programs and is one of the two Discipline Officers. She shared the caseload with Dr. George Buck (Faculty of Education), Discipline Officer. Theresa Everest provided part time administrative assistance.

**Cases**

The attached charts reflect the number of cases completed in the Discipline Office between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. The number is calculated based on the completion date of the discipline decision. Note that the statistics reported in this document reflect only the cases referred to the OSJA and do not provide total numbers for Code of Student Behaviour violations.

Over the year, the two Discipline Officers rendered a total of 83 discipline decisions. Sanctions imposed included 3 written reprimands, 30 fines, 4 students were required to pay restitution, 52 students were placed on conduct probation by the Discipline Officer, 21 students were suspended and 2 were expelled. Charges were dismissed in four (4) cases. It was decided that the sanctions imposed by the Complainant before referring to the OSJA were sufficient in two (2) other cases and no further sanctions were applied. Of those 83 cases, one was appealed to the University Appeal Board (UAB) and that appeal was denied.

OSJA ANNUAL REPORT  
2008/09

**Trends**

The OSJA completed a total of 83 case files for the 2008/09 academic year, a 31% increase from the previous year. Faculties submitted approximately one quarter of our case files, and the remaining three quarters came from Campus Security Services (CSS) and Residence Services. This reverses the trend from last year, in which 16 of the 63 cases were submitted by CSS and 47 by Faculties.

The vast majority of academic cases are handled at the Faculty level and OSJA does not become involved. Appropriately, only the most egregious cases are referred to the OSJA with recommendations for severe sanctions. These cases tended to be more complex in nature and often involved second offences. Because the statistics cited herein apply strictly to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs, any trends identified in terms of academic misconduct must not be generalized to the entire University. At the writing of this report, it was not known how many students were charged with academic offences in 2008/09 that did not involve a referral to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

Gender seems to play a role in non-academic offences: 59 out of 62 students who committed non-academic offences were male, three were female. Academic offences were more closely matched between males (12) and females (9).

Of the 83 cases in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs, students in their second year of study were twice as likely as other students to commit offences under the Code. Fifteen (15) first-year students, 32 second-year students, 15 third-year students, 12 fourth-year students, two (2) fifth-year students, and two (2) graduate students were referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs last year. In addition, 5 other students who were in Open Studies, after degree programs or the Faculty of Extension, were required to meet with a Discipline Officer.

Charges included plagiarism (15), cheating (10), misuse of confidential materials (1), disruption (3), violation of safety or dignity (15), damage to property (4), unauthorized use of facilities, equipment, materials, services or resources (22), breach of rules external to the Code (38), failure to show identification (4), misrepresentation of facts (7) and participation in an offence (1). Only three cases resulted in charges being dismissed.

This year the OSJA began tracking alcohol-related offences. Of the 83 cases, 8 were directly related to alcohol (for example, violations of the Alberta Liquor and Gaming Act) and 25 were indirectly related to alcohol, that is, students reported violating the Code while intoxicated. An additional 8 cases involved illegal drug possession or use.

Having changed the way breaches of rules external to the Code are counted, the number of charges rose to 38 this year from only 6 last year. Previously, a student was charged with Breach of Rules External to the Code only once regardless of the number of external rules broken. In order to facilitate discretion for the Discipline Officer to investigate each charge separately, each allegation is now counted as a separate charge. External rules ranged from the Criminal Code of Canada (18), Controlled Substances Act (8), Alberta Gaming and Liquor Act (3), the Traffic Safety Act (1), Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (1), internal University of Alberta policies external to the Code (3), and other statutes (4).

Cases referred by Residence Services increased nine-fold this year. A concerted effort by Residence Services to enforce the Housing Exclusion List (HEL) resulted in 18 charges under Section 30.3.5(2)b –Unauthorized Use of Facilities, Equipment, Materials, Services or Resources – compared to only two (2) in 2007/08.

**University Community and Beyond**

**Academic Integrity Guides for Students** – In recognition of the need for information on academic integrity resources specifically for graduate students, the OSJA produced *A Guide to Academic Integrity for Graduate Students* and distributed it to every University of Alberta graduate student. A similar publication, *The Undergraduate Student's Guide to Academic Integrity*, was produced in electronic form only. Both of these guides are posted on the OSJA website at [www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/osja](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/osja).

In addition, the OSJA developed and produced two new brochures, *10 Ways to Write Papers Without Plagiarism* and *Collaborating on Assignments*, and worked with Campus Saint Jean to translate the student and instructor academic integrity resources into French.

**Academic Discipline Meetings** – The two Discipline Officers participated in two meetings for the key stakeholders in academic discipline, including Associate Deans, the Dean of Students, the Student OmbudService and the Appeals Coordinator. The meetings provide a forum for open communication between those involved in academic discipline and to address procedural issues that arise in our work.

**Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC)** – D. Eerkes continues to work closely with the Dean of Students' office, Campus Security and the Student OmbudService throughout the process of bringing proposed Code of Student Behaviour changes, arising from discussions with key stakeholders throughout the year, through the proper channels for approval.

**Presentations** – D. Eerkes gave a total of 25 presentations on academic integrity or the Code of Student Behaviour this year. Presentations on campus included the International Centre, University Teaching Services, Department of Biological Sciences, English and Film Studies classes, Engineering 100 classes (both at U of A and the Grant MacEwan Engineering transfer program), and Library and Information Studies (LIS).

**External professional activities** – D. Eerkes completed her term as President of Canadian Academic Integrity and Student Judicial Affairs (CAISJA), a Division under the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services (CACUSS). She also sits on the Advisory Board for the Center for Academic Integrity, where the University of Alberta has been an active member since 2001.

**Internal partnerships** – D. Eerkes organized and participated in an initiative to address high-risk drinking among students. The group, entitled the Coalition for Action on High Risk Drinking (CAHRD), involves representatives from the Dean of Students' Office, Campus Security Services, University Health Centre, Residence Services, the Alcohol Policy Review Committee, the Student OmbudService, Risk Management, the Students' Union, and the Addictions and Mental Health Research Lab, with input from Responsible Hospitality Edmonton and Alberta Health Services (formerly the Alberta Addictions and Drug Abuse Commission). A self-assessment tool for students to gauge their drinking habits in relation to social norms and personal harms will be introduced in Fall 2009. Information gathered in that survey will be analyzed by Dr. Cam Wild of the Addictions and Mental Health Research Lab in the School of Public Health.



OSJA ANNUAL REPORT  
2008/09

The OSJA looks forward to continued collaboration with other units within the University. The more we can forge ties with the University community, the stronger our prevention network will become.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deerkes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Eerkes  
Director

OSJA ANNUAL REPORT  
2008/09

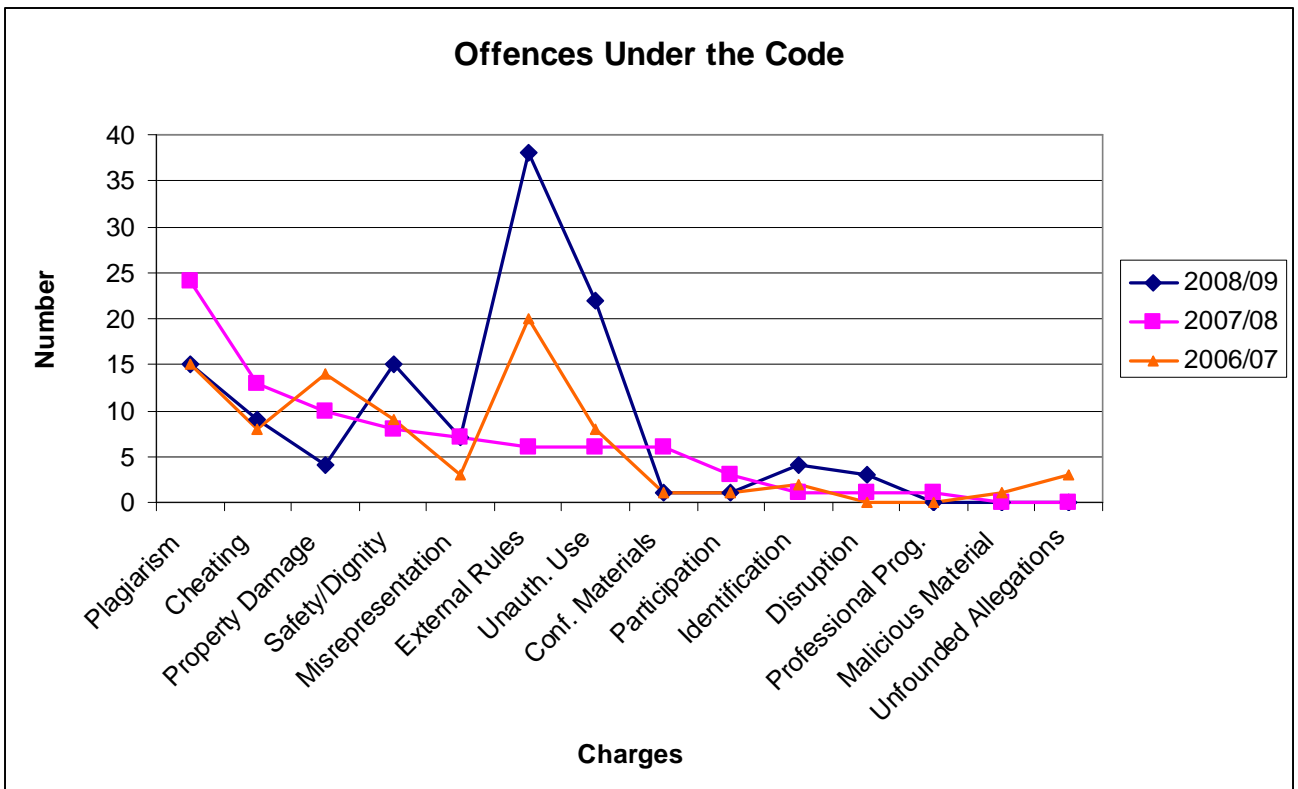
**2008-2009 Statistics**

**1. Origin of Cases**

Complainant	Number of Cases Completed		
	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences			2
Arts	11	12	6
Augustana	1		
Business		2	
Education	2	7	
Engineering	2	13	5
FGSR		1	2
Native Studies		1	
Physical Education and Recreation	1		
Science	5	9	6
Residence Services	18	2	
Campus Security Services	43	16	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>61</b>

**2. Charges under the Code**

Some cases contain multiple charges against a student, therefore the total number of charges (120) is higher than the number of cases (83).



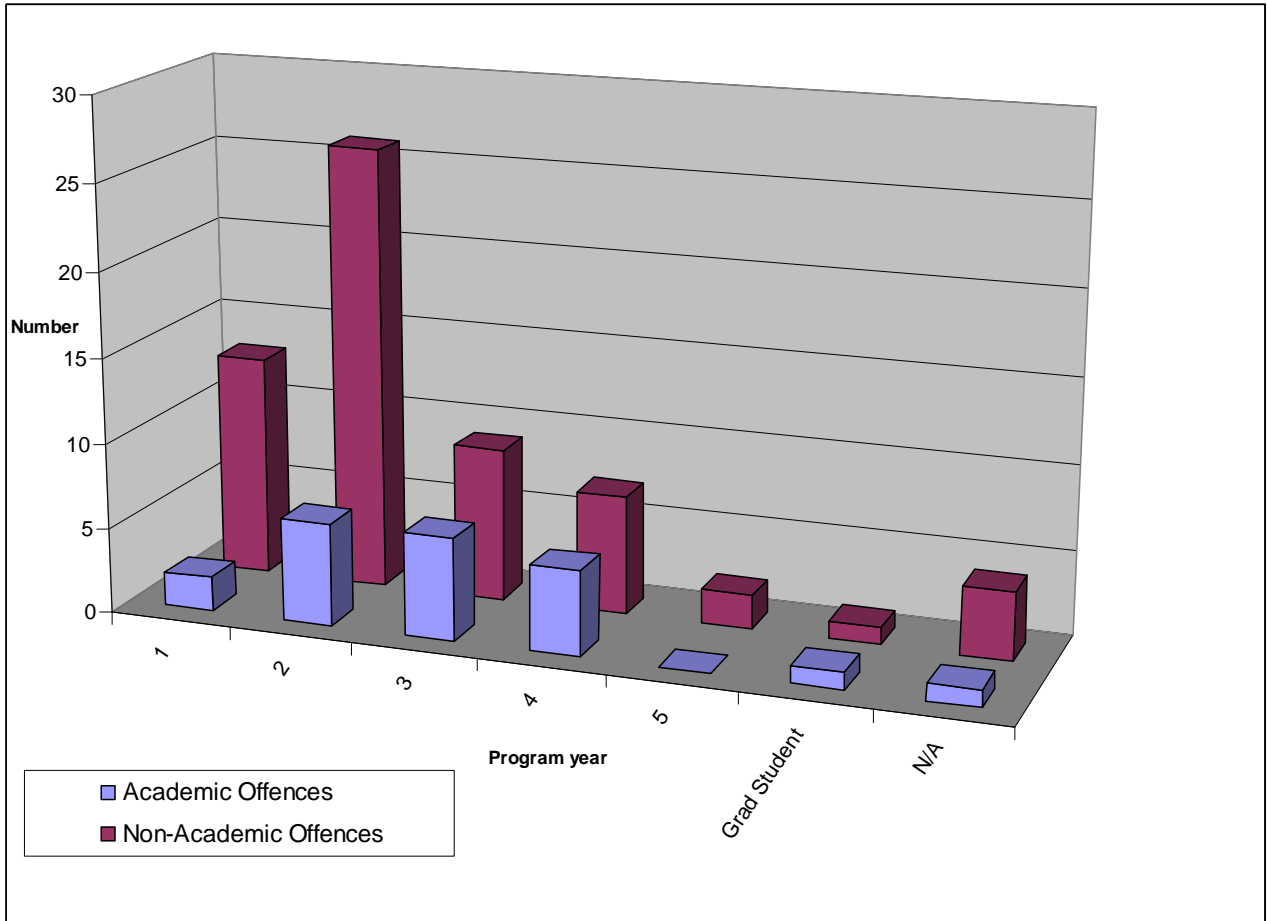
OSJA ANNUAL REPORT  
2008/09

**3. Disposition of Decisions of the Discipline Officer**

<b>SANCTION</b> (In addition to sanctions already imposed by Deans and/or Unit Directors)*	<b>Number imposed</b>			
	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	
Expulsion	2	4	3	*Some cases result in multiple sanctions, therefore the total number of sanctions is greater than the number of cases.
Suspension	21	33	13	
Conduct Probation	52	35	42	
Fine	30	2	4	
Suspend Degree	-	-	-	
Exclusion	-	-	1	
Suspension University Resources	-	-	-	
Restitution	4	11	13	
Reprimand	3	4	6	
Charges upheld; no add'l sanction	2	3	1	
Charges dismissed; no sanction	4	3	5	
<b>Total Sanctions</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>88</b>	

OSJA ANNUAL REPORT  
2008/09

5. Case Type by Student Year of Program



4. Case by Type and Gender

	Academic	Non-Academic	TOTAL
♂	12	59	71
♀	9	3	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>83</b>

5. Discipline Officers

Discipline Officer	Number of Cases completed		
	08/09	07/08	06/07
Deborah Eerkes	47	33	29
George Buck	36	30	25
Joint Investigation	-	-	7
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>61</b>