



## Student Conduct Policies and Sanctions

November 2001

### Purpose

The focus of this survey was to determine student awareness of student conduct policies and sanctions.

### Implications/Highlights

Students were generally unfamiliar with student conduct policies, processes, and sanctions. Students thought that administrative sanctions were most effective and educational sanctions least effective. One-third were aware that the university is now reviewing student violations reported by off-campus police.

### Participation Rate

N = 716 (60%) agreed to participate

N = 469 (40%) did not agree to participate

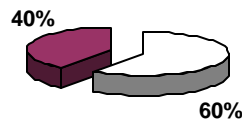


Figure 1. Participation rate

### Findings

Few students report that they had gone online to access the *Student Guide to Policies and Rules*, the specific section on the Student Code of Conduct, or other University Policies.

#### Accessed Information Online

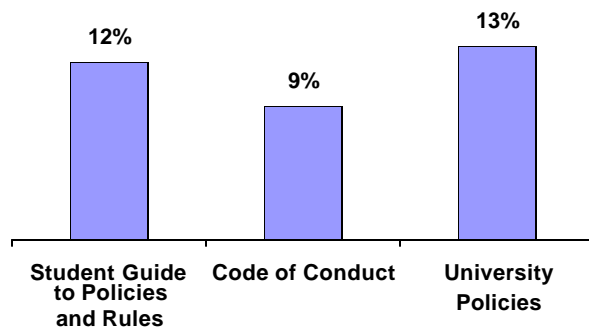


Figure 2. Few students report having gone online to access information about conduct policies

More of the men than of the women had gone online to access the Code of Conduct. \*

\*Statistically significant at the .05 level

Nearly two-thirds said they were aware of policies related to academic integrity while fewer reported being familiar with the *Student Guide to Policies and Rules*, the Student Code of Conduct or the new Statement of Principles.

#### Familiar With Policies

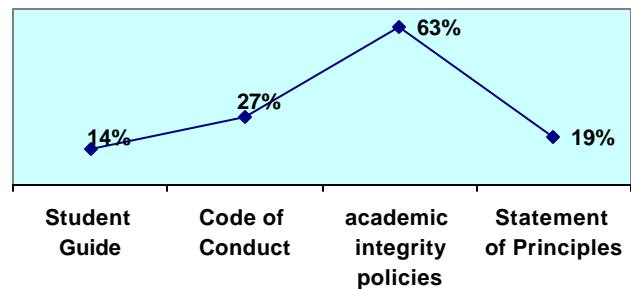


Figure 3. Students were familiar with academic integrity policies but not formal policies

Few students reported being familiar with the Judicial Affairs Office, the process followed when a campus violation was reported, or penalties for violations occurring on or off campus.

#### Familiar with Judicial Affairs Office, Process, or Penalties

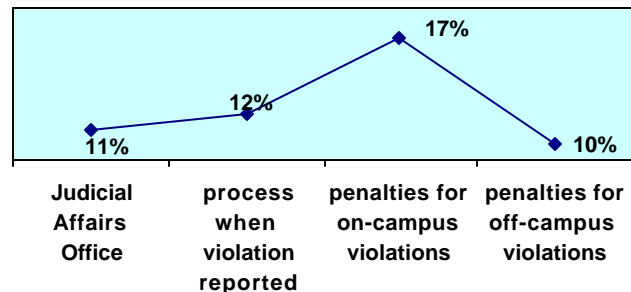


Figure 4. Few students were familiar with the Judicial Affairs Office, the process followed when a violation was reported, or penalties for on or off-campus violations

More first year students than sophomores, juniors, or seniors were familiar with the Code of Conduct \* and Statement of Principles. \*

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Student Affairs

Students were asked about effectiveness of various approaches to help increase awareness about Code of Conduct regulations. Email announcements and newspaper articles summarizing violations and penalties were chosen as most effective.

- 54% email announcements
- 43% articles summarizing violations and sanctions
- 30% posters or flyers
- 29% letters to the editor describing general situations or problems
- 29% newspaper ads
- 5% Judicial Affairs Web page

Other suggestions included Conduct references incorporated in class syllabi, discussions led by RAs, having instructors brief students, an event in the HUB Robeson Center, and having informational material mailed and posted in elevators.

Students were asked how effective various sanctions were in discouraging violations of the Code of Conduct including administrative sanctions (probation or expulsion from the University,) educational sanctions, monetary fines, or required community service.

**Effective in Discouraging Violations**

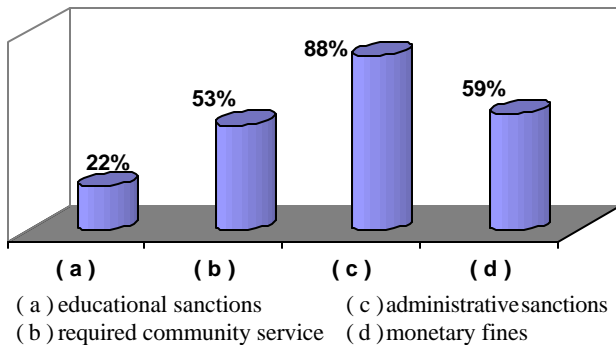


Figure 5. Students were asked the effectiveness of various sanctions in discouraging violations of the Code of Conduct

Those who themselves or through a friend had had personal experience with the Judicial Affairs Office were more likely to feel that educational sanctions were *not effective* in discouraging violations.\*

Women were more likely than men to think the University should have a basic fine for all violations.\*

**Fines Should Be Assessed For All Violations**

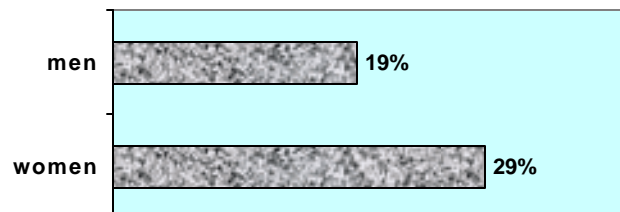


Figure 6. Women were more likely than men to support fines

Students were asked whether the University should consider fining students for campus violations.

**Fines for Campus Violations**

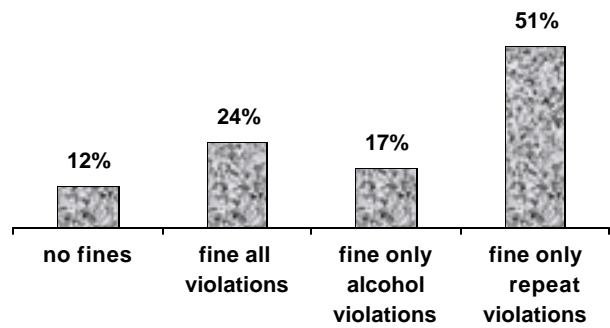


Figure 7. Students were asked about University fines for campus violations

One-third (34%) of the survey respondents were aware that the University had been asked to begin reviewing off-campus incidents involving students that were reported to the community police.

Students were asked how the Office of Judicial Affairs should handle these off-campus violations.

**Response to Violations Reported by Community Police to Judicial Affairs**

violations reported by community police	take no action	keep incident on file	hold formal meeting w/student
all violations	14%	53%	34%
major violations	3%	8%	89%
minor violations	31%	59%	10%
repeated minor violations	10%	46%	45%

One-third of respondents thought Judicial Affairs assigned sanctions fairly.

**Office of Judicial Affairs**

- 34% assigned sanctions and penalties fairly
- 31% reviewed and processed discipline cases fairly
- 14% helped students understand consequences of violating Code of Conduct

**Comments by Individual Students**

- no one cares
- students don't take conduct or penalties seriously
- not enough publicity
- not consistent
- violations are irrelevant

\*Statistically significant at the .05 level.