

# Students' Rights and Responsibilities (cont.)

title and description of each course; number of credit hours; name and location of institution; an explanation of how each course fits into the student's Oberlin program; why it is more appropriate to the course(s) while suspended than upon return to Oberlin. For more detailed information consult with staff in the Office of the Dean of Studies, Peters Hall 205, (440) 775-8540.

**ANY RECOMMENDATION FOR SUSPENSION MUST BE APPROVED BY THE COMMUNITY BOARD.**

## 12. DEFERRED SUSPENSION

A notation in the student's permanent judicial record stating that if all sanctions imposed by a Community Board are not completed satisfactorily and by a specified date the student will be placed on suspension automatically for a period of time predetermined by the Community Board that heard the case.

## 13. WITHHOLDING OF DEGREE

In disciplinary cases involving second-semester seniors when probation or suspension might otherwise be imposed, the college may withhold the student's Oberlin College degree for a specified period of time. When this occurs, the student may be permitted to remain on campus to complete the requirements for the degree, although its award will be delayed. Any recommendation for withholding a degree must be approved by the Community Board.

## 14. DISMISSAL

This means the permanent termination of student and degree-candidate status at Oberlin College. It may be imposed only in the most serious of cases, or when a student has been suspended previously and commits another offense judged to be worthy of a second suspension. This penalty will permanently remain on a student's academic record.

**ANY RECOMMENDATION FOR DISMISSAL MUST BE APPROVED BY THE COMMUNITY BOARD.**

## A Note About the Release of Information Pertaining to Disciplinary Records

The Office of the Dean of Students will only release information regarding a current or former student's disciplinary record to third parties (including, but not limited to law schools, medical schools, and military branches) after receiving a written request from that individual and a signed waiver for the third party. As a rule, the college only reports information pertaining to cases that have resulted in probation, suspension, or dismissal alone or in combination with other lesser sanctions.

Current and former students desiring the Office of the Dean of Students to report disciplinary history that it does not customarily report (such as cases that resulted in deferred probation, deferred suspension, or other lesser sanctions not combined with probation,

suspension, or dismissal) may authorize the office to share such information by making a specific written request. Individuals wishing to speak with someone about a dean's letter or dean's certification, may contact the Office of the Dean of Students at (440) 775-8462.

## L. Revisions and Modification

The Judicial System will be reviewed every other year by the Judicial Coordinator and a subcommittee of the Judicial and Community Boards. Changes to this document will be approved by the Student Life Committee (SLC) and the General Faculty.

Copies of the *Oberlin College Student Code of Conduct and the Judicial System Charter* are available online and in the Dean of Students Office.

## V. Social Conduct and Regulations

### A. Statement of Social Responsibility

*The following statement was adopted by the Student Senate on October 2, 1966, and remains in effect.*

We, the students of Oberlin College, recognize that social responsibility inheres with membership in the college community. Because we have the right to establish our own rules, each student will create and adhere to a set of individual values consistent with the rights of other members of the community. Collectively, we will establish a framework of rules that leaves a wide area of free choice, while building a tradition of respect for responsible behavior. Individually, we commit ourselves to govern our actions within this framework, not only by our own personal needs and desires, but also by a concern for the welfare of others. A social system that encourages individual choice and responsibility goes hand in hand with the fostering of intellectual freedom and academic excellence. We value highly that freedom which is rooted in the willingness to enforce and administer our own rules, and in the willingness of all students to cooperate with the entire community. We believe that not only the ability to make decisions, but also the development of a respect for the decisions of others is essential to the education process and the working of a viable community.

### B. Faculty Statement on Freedom of Speech and Expression

*The following resolution was adopted by the General Faculty on May 20, 1986, and remains in effect.*

The General Faculty has observed with grave concern recent incidents at Oberlin College in which members of the college have appeared to interfere with the efforts of other members and guests of the college to freely express their views. The General Faculty urges aggrieved persons or groups to make use of established judicial procedures to resolve specific instances in which rights may have

# Students' Rights and Responsibilities (cont.)

been violated. Oberlin College, in its traditions and as an academic institution, is devoted to free and open inquiry. Therefore, it is important that freedom of speech and freedom of expression be guaranteed to individuals and groups to express whatever views they wish, so long as they do not interfere with the rights of others. The General Faculty therefore calls upon all members of the college community to join in the assertion of this tradition of academic and civic freedom and to continue to foster a climate in which it is cherished.

## C. General Posting Policy

*Approved by General Faculty in April 2003.*

Advertisements are an important means of communication among the members of the Oberlin College community. Compliance with this posting policy will ensure that advertisements are not removed and that individuals and groups take responsibility for their words. This policy applies to Oberlin College community members, whether as individuals or as members of college departments, offices, or organizations. Those not affiliated with Oberlin College do not automatically have the right to use college spaces for the display of posters or flyers. The posting of notices on campus does not necessarily represent endorsement or sponsorship by the college.

The Office of Safety and Security, representatives of the student life staff, the Grounds Department, or designated building representatives will remove postings that are in violation of the following regulations. Postings on undedicated (i.e., nondepartmental, nonorganizational) bulletin boards that comply with the following regulations must not be removed until a reasonable amount of time has elapsed, nor should they be defaced.

### 1. POSTING REGULATIONS

**a.** Posted materials must be in compliance with the posting regulations of Oberlin College listed below as well as general Oberlin policies. Please remember to be courteous to others' posting privileges.

- (1) Posters that compromise the safety of others (for example, obscuring windows and doors) are not permitted.
- (2) Posting on emergency phones/equipment, or on vehicles in parking lots, is prohibited.
- (3) All informational materials intended for public viewing must have the sponsoring department, student organization, college committee or individual name clearly displayed. This includes: flyers, posters, table tents, etc. In accordance with the Student Bill of Rights, "members of the college are expected to take responsibility for their expressions; anonymous expressions are inimical to the free and open exchange of ideas."
- (4) Except for posters/flyers placed on identified departmental, office or organizational bulletin

boards, those posters/flyers from entities outside the college must bear the clearly labeled sponsorship of a college office, department, organization, or individual.

(5) Individuals must be aware of the potential consequences—for themselves and for others—of advertising events that violate college policy or state and local laws. [Examples include the serving of alcohol to minors and cash bars.]

(6) Guidelines have been developed regarding responsible alcohol service. The guidelines include guidance for responsibly publicizing events where alcohol will be served. Students planning events in college housing must be acquainted with the relevant language in the policy or residence hall party planning. The policy is available in the Office of Residential Education.

(7) Some campus buildings (such as Mudd Center and Wilder Hall) have more restrictive regulations on postings. Contact the administrator in charge of each building for specific guidelines.

(8) Bulletin boards dedicated to a specific department or organization may be used only with their permission. Departments and organizations should consider using a stamp or similar device to indicate approval or endorsement of posted material.

(9) Chalking is permitted on concrete outdoor sidewalks only. Chalking is not permitted on any vertical surfaces, buildings, walls, or on any surfaces that are bricked or tiled. Areas of sidewalks that are on a porch or under an overhang should not be used for chalking. Only water-soluble chalk may be used to ensure that removal will be done naturally by weather and wear. Although individuals are encouraged to take responsibility for their statements, chalking need not conform to posting regulation (see paragraph 3 above).

(10) These policies apply to college property only; students and others are reminded that different policies apply on other Oberlin city property.

### 2. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**a.** All members of the Oberlin College community are urged to abide by the following guidelines in order to ensure that information is most effectively transmitted:

- (1) Do not post printed materials advertising events earlier than two weeks prior to the event.
- (2) Do not advertise for events until the venue for the event is confirmed.