

Summary of past cases heard by the Student Disciplinary Committee (“SDC”) from 2017 to 2023

Twenty-Second Case

Summary of the case: A student was found to have provided a forged community service record of a NGO to the Residence Master and repeatedly violated Regulations for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Penalties imposed:

- suspension from the University for one semester;
- a prescribed program of counseling to be conducted by a HKUST Student Counselor, the duration of which will be at the Counselor’s professional judgement but shall not be less than 10 sessions, and
- completion of at least 40 hours of community service at the NGO during the suspension period.

Twenty-Third Case

Summary of the case: A student was found to have obtained the password to an Instructor’s email account, without permission, in an attempt to get the mid-term examination paper. The case has been reported to the Police, and referred to the SDC on the ground of academic misconduct.

Penalties imposed:

- expulsion from the University

Twenty-Fourth Case

Summary of the case: A student was found to have committed the following acts in two consecutive semesters:

Student Misconduct

- breaking into an office of the University

Student Academic Misconduct

- alteration of examination scores and replacement of answer books of the examinations

Penalties imposed:

- expulsion from the University

Twenty-Fifth Case

Summary of the case: During an election held within the University, a student was found to have, in his capacity as leader of a student body, issued a message to all members/voters quoting therein an unsubstantiated yet potentially defamatory statement against another student who stood for the election.

Penalties imposed:

- suspension from using the University’s sports and amenities facilities for 6 months;
- bar from taking up any positions of leadership within the student body, including the Students’ Union, its affiliated societies, and the student hostels, until he has satisfactorily completed 50 hours of University community service; and
- written reprimand.

Twenty-Sixth Case

Summary of the case: Five students were found to have committed a series of acts of harassment and displayed unacceptable behavior at the University's offices:

- i) Student A for committing acts and displaying behaviors of a threatening, aggressive, and disrespectful nature, and attempting to gain unauthorized entry into an office of the University by force; and
- ii) Student B, C, D & E for committing acts and displaying behaviors of a threatening, aggressive, and disrespectful nature.

Penalties imposed:

Student A

- suspension from the University for 6 months;
- suspension from using the University's academic, sports and amenities facilities for 6 months;
- completion of 50 hours of University community service; and
- written reprimand.

Student B, C, D & E

- suspension from using the University's sports and amenities facilities for 6 months;
- completion of 50 hours of University community service; and
- written reprimand.

Twenty-Seventh Case

Summary of the case: Two students were found to have committed student academic misconduct when taking online examination of three courses. Student A shared her ITSC account and password with another student, Student B, with which Student B gained access to Student A's ITSC account during the online examinations.

Penalties imposed:

Student A (in addition to the sanctions imposed by the School)

- suspension from the University for one semester.

Student B (who has a prior record of another academic misconduct during the same school term)

- suspension from the University for one year.
- completion of an academic integrity course of the University during the suspension period;
- completion of 50 hours of University community service; and
- a permanent notation of academic dishonesty on the student's academic record.

Twenty-Eighth Case

Summary of the case: Ten students were found to have committed various acts of misconduct including, amongst others, the holding of mass-gathering events on campus in violation of the Acting Dean of Students' instruction which was given out of public health concern, and misapplication of University's properties.

In view of the differing level of involvement and respective roles undertaken by the students, as well as the varying degree of severity in relation thereto, different penalties were imposed on the students involved, including:

- suspension from using the University sports and amenities facilities for 6 months;
- completion of 25-75 hours of University community service;
- written reprimand;
- suspension from the University for one semester (which was imposed in view of, amongst others, a prior record of student misconduct committed by the same students during the same academic year)

Twenty-Ninth Case

Summary of the case: A student was found to have committed a series of sexual harassment acts against a number of female students during his postgraduate study at the University.

Penalties imposed:

- immediate expulsion from the University
- permanent notation being endorsed on the student's academic transcript and student record indicating that the student has committed a serious misconduct

Thirtieth Case

Summary of the case: Three students were found to have committed academic misconduct during online quizzes/examinations. Student A was found to have referred to unauthorized materials on the computer during an online quiz and an online examination. Student B violated the rules of the final examination by leaving the online Canvas quiz webpage to view other webpages multiple times during the final examination. Student C referred to the instructor's excel file during a closed book online examination.

Penalties imposed:

Student B (in addition to the sanctions imposed by the School)

- Suspension from the University for one semester; and
- Completion of an academic integrity course of the University and 50 hours of University community service.

Student C (in addition to the sanctions imposed by the School)

- Being graded "Fail" in the course where he was found to have committed academic misconduct; and
- Completion of an academic integrity course of the University and 50 hours of University community service.

(Remarks: For Student A, no further penalties were imposed by the SDC as the SDC considered the penalties already imposed by the Department and the School being proportional to the misconduct in question.)

Thirty-First Case

- Summary of the case: Two subjects were found to have committed serious academic misconduct through the use of fraudulent documents to apply for admission to the University.

Penalties imposed:

- Upon the recommendation by SDC, Council and Senate resolved to deprive the Master's Degrees of the two subjects conferred on them by HKUST in 2022 and 2023 respectively.

Note:

In accordance with the “Regulations for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity – Student Disciplinary Committee” (<http://acadreg.ust.hk/generalreg.html>), where the SDC finds a student guilty of misconduct, it may impose a series of sanctions, including expulsion of a student from the University.