

## Committee on Discipline

*One of the 12 standing committees of the Faculty, the Committee on Discipline upholds Institute policies related to academic, personal, and sexual misconduct. <http://cod.mit.edu/>*

**Chair:** Suzanne Flynn  
Professor, Linguistics & Philosophy  
sflynn@mit.edu

**Staff:** Kevin Kraft  
Director, Office of Student Citizenship  
kkraft@mit.edu

### Agenda

MIT asks students to advance knowledge at the highest level, while maintaining the highest standards of respect, integrity, and civility. With professional and fact-finding support from the Office of Student Citizenship and Title IX investigators, the Committee on Discipline (COD) represents the Faculty in resolving alleged violations by students and student organizations.

COD aims to ensure equity and fairness to complainants and respondents. Processes are intended to be consistent, objective, and educational, rather than adversarial. Approximately 20% of cases are resolved through help-seeking protocols or informal means, without disciplinary action. In other cases, sanctions can include faculty letters to file, education, probation, removal from housing, suspension, or expulsion. COD acts with power in all cases. In specific circumstances, decisions may be appealed to the chancellor.

MIT's expectations for students and student organizations are outlined in publications such as the *Mind and Hand Book*, the Handbook on Academic Integrity, Policies and Procedures, and Housing Policies. The COD is not responsible for creating or changing policy; only for applying established policies to the facts of the case. The formal charge to the committee can be found in the *Rules and Regulations of the Faculty*, [section 1.73.7](#).

### Membership and Structure

The committee consists of 6 elected faculty, 3 undergraduate students, 2 graduate students, and representatives of the deans for undergraduate education, graduate education, and student life. In 2013, the committee added the option of smaller sanctioning panels, creating a streamlined resolution in cases where a respondent accepts responsibility. In 2015, the committee introduced a dedicated sexual misconduct subcommittee, with membership appointed by the COD chair.

### Time Commitment

*Meetings.* The primary commitment is service on 1-3 sanctioning panels per semester. Scheduling varies based on member availability. COD typically does not require outside consultation or preparation.

*Training.* Member training includes 10-16 hours of initial briefing (across 2-3 days), a half-day retreat during IAP, and an optional 2-hour monthly dinner for ongoing development. Members serving on the sexual misconduct subcommittee receive 16-24 hours of additional specialized training.

### Other Requirements

COD adjudicates cases involving allegations of cheating, plagiarism, alcohol, drugs, hazing, theft, sexual misconduct, unauthorized access, and other serious issues, which can be complex and emotionally charged. Some cases may require that members make difficult decisions about whether students should be permitted to stay at the Institute. Proceedings are subject to strict confidentiality.