

Academic Affairs Charge 1

Nana Yaw-Andoh and Danielle Smith

AAC Charge

- AA 1
- Review D5.1 and consider applying restrictions prohibiting suspended students from participating in other RIT sponsored activities such as student government, Simone Center grants, RIT Clubs and Teams. Make recommendations for associated policy changes and bring them to senate for discussion and vote.
- It seems that suspended students are excluded from Division I or III sports, but the policy is not clear on club sports or other activities. Investigate RIT's liability to have non-RIT students on competition clubs, travel representing RIT, or participating in Tiger Tank or other Simone Center activities. Is there a loophole in policy? Should we suspend students from all Campus activities and not just academic activities?
- Policy D 5.1 Academic Action Policy might be reviewed, in particular the section containing, "a suspended student cannot enroll in any credit or non-credit course at the university while on suspension".

AA1

AA1 is written to inquire about changing policy D05.1 which reads:

- **I. CURRENT POLICY**
- D05.1 Academic Actions and Recognitions
- **II. ACADEMIC PROBATION AND SUSPENSION**
- Undergraduate Policy

Probation refers to the academic action taken when a student is not in good academic standing. A student placed on probation is expected to sufficiently raise his/her GPA in the succeeding term so that the probationary status can be removed. In some circumstances, a student will also be required to satisfy specific conditions required by the home department in the form of an academic contract in order to be removed from probation. Failure to meet the terms of probation may result in suspension.

Suspension refers to the academic action taken when a student is not permitted to enroll in courses at the university for a period of one calendar year.

Specific concern:

- Specific cases are known where students are suspended from RIT but still work for the Simone Center, travel with SAE Competition teams, or participate on other clubs. This charge was suggested by Rob Garrick, who has some data to support the concern.

Discussions with relevant stakeholders:

- Scott McVean, (Senior Associate Director of Intercollegiate Athletics)
- Lisa Boice, MBA, JD, *Assistant Dean*, Student Services, Saunders College of Business
- Bobby Colon, Legal Counsel
- David K. Bagley, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Co-Administrative Advisor, Student Government
- Farid Barquet Ramos (Student Government) (no response)

*Agreement with AAC recommendation

ACADEMIC SUSPENSION POLICIES FROM RIT BENCHMARK SCHOOLS

- Students on academic suspension may not*:
 - Register for courses
 - Attend classes
 - Live in student or fraternity/sorority housing
 - Use campus facilities including athletic facilities, library, and computer clusters
 - Participate in student activities
 - Be members of student organizations
 - Have student jobs

*Note: summarized from multiple institutions

- Peer institutions researched:
 - Carnegie Mellon, Case Western, Clarkson, Cornell, Drexel, Illinois Institute of Technology, Lehigh, MIT, NYU, and Northeastern.

Bobby Colon discussion (excerpted)

- The issue of student suspensions is not, in the first instance, a legal issue. In other words, there are no statutes or regulations that deal with the matter directly.
- The common thread with these aforementioned policies is that suspension, from all university activities, appears to be an appropriate remedy whenever the conduct of the student is in question; either conduct that violates the Student Code of Conduct or which places the student or other members of the RIT community at risk of danger and/or harm.
- That thread appears to be missing in the academic context. That might be the rationale for why academic suspensions only result in a prohibition of enrolling in courses.

D18.0 (VIII) (A) (4): Responses to Violations of the Student Code of Conduct

- *Suspension.* Suspension is the immediate removal of the Student's affiliation with the university for a specific period of time, which includes exclusion from classes, university housing, and all other university activities. Suspended Students are not allowed to be on campus for any reason during the period of suspension and may be arrested for trespassing if found on university property. Students returning from suspension have an initial restriction from living in campus housing and are placed in indefinite probation for the remainder of their time at RIT.
- Suspended Student organizations may lose certain privileges, such as use of campus facilities, participation in university activities, use of allocated funds, recruitment, or new member education activities. If a Student organization with a national affiliation (e.g., a Greek-letter organization) is found responsible for misconduct and is placed on a status of Suspension, RIT will inform the national office of the decision. Specific conditions will be required to be completed prior to the Student or Student organization's return.
- Once the term and the conditions of a suspension are completed, it is the responsibility of the Student to contact their academic college to discuss returning to that college.

SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Revise D5.1 to be consistent with other university policies regarding student suspension.
- For example, D18.0 outlines the student conduct process and includes suspension as a permissible outcome for violations of the Student Code of Conduct.
- See D18.0(VIII)(A)(4). Suspension in this context includes exclusion from classes, university housing, and all other university activities. Suspension is also an appropriate remedy for violations of D18.1 (Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy) and D19.0 (Student Gender-Based and Sexual Misconduct Policy-Title IX).

Motion:

We move to add the following as D.5.II.A.13

“Academic **Suspension** refers to the academic action taken that immediately removes the Student’s affiliation with the university for a period of one calendar year. A student on academic suspension will be excluded from classes, university housing, and all other university activities during the period of suspension. A suspended student may attend university events open to the general public. The student's participation at university events will be limited to the participation of the general audience.”

Questions?