



Proposed Student Code of Conduct

March 2017



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

Overview of Proposed Code Process

- External Program Review – Recommendation to revise Code of Conduct (2013)
- Drafting and Research Process (2014)
- Initial Vetting Process (2015)
 - Proposed Code presented and discussed with various campus constituencies (e.g. SGA, GSS, Greek Life, Sent to all students enrolled at UT, Parent’s Council, Student Life Council)
 - Edits made as a result of meetings and discussions
- Passed by Board of Trustees (October 2015)
- Rulemaking Hearing (October 2016)
 - Verbal and written feedback submitted
 - Edits made as a result of the rulemaking hearing & other circumstances
- Revised Code of Conduct to be presented to the Board of Trustees (March 2017)

Why Revise the Code?

- Program Review Recommendations
- The current Code is **antiquated**
 - No substantial changes in the past 40 years
- Not educational, **convoluted** and difficult to understand
- **Lacks details and specificity** regarding process
- Contains **vague/unclear** sanctions (e.g. indefinite suspension)
- Requires changes regarding **Sexual Misconduct board composition** (Jane Doe Settlement Agreement)

Notable Changes from Current Code

Notable Changes

- **Philosophy**
 - Establishes a more clearly stated philosophy of conduct that affirms a developmental and educational process, not just one that is punitive
 - Less legalistic
- **Records Retention and Disclosure**
 - Distinguishes between enrolled and students who are no longer enrolled
 - 7 years unless suspension or greater sanction
- **Sanction Improvements**
 - Eliminates indefinite suspension
 - Addition of deferred suspension
 - Includes educational sanction opportunities
 - Eliminates the sanction of revocation of degree except for situations involving academic/research misconduct
- **Good Samaritan/Amnesty Policy**

Notable Changes

- **Jurisdiction**
 - Modifies jurisdiction and clarifies student responsibility (off campus)
- **Process Clarifications**
 - Establishes a specific and explicitly defined process
 - Creates a streamlined process
 - Explains criteria used to determine individual and/or organization responsibility
 - Details procedures for students who fail to participate in the process
- **Hearing Process**
 - Includes additional hearing option – Student Life Hearing Officer
 - Eliminates Student Life Council
 - Contains Alternative Resolution Process (i.e. mediation)

Process Changes

- **Uniform Hearing Board**
 - Develops one uniform Board composed of Students, Faculty, and Staff (Student Conduct Board)
 - Exceptions for cases involving sexual misconduct and research misconduct
- **Elimination of Individual Hearing Boards**
 - Student Tribunal
 - Greek Judicial Board
 - Academic Review Board
- **Simplified Appeal Process**

Notable Edits to Proposed Code

Following Board of Trustees meeting in October
2015 & Rulemaking Hearing/Process

Edits to Proposed Code

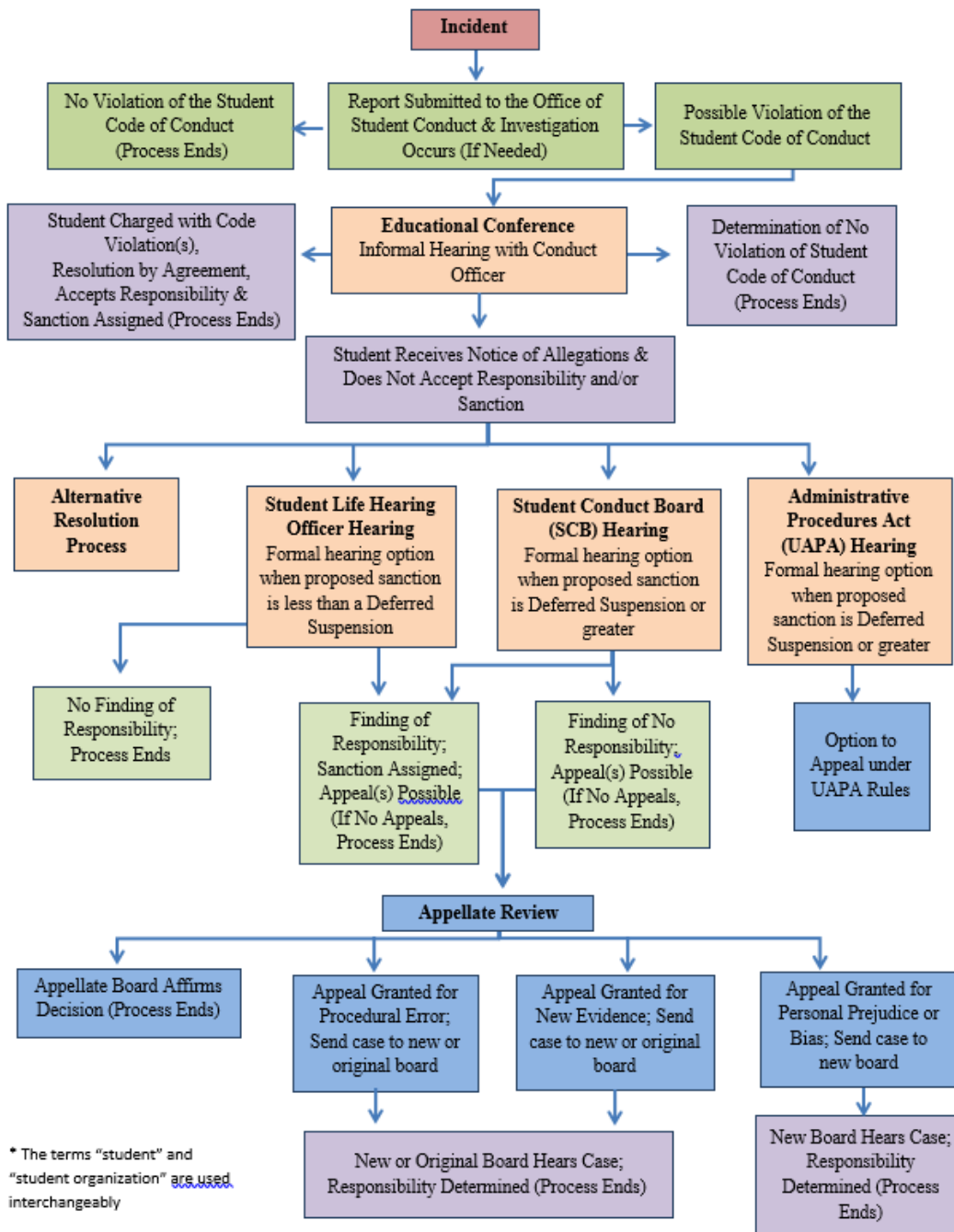
- Specific reference to the University's Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Relationship Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation in the Standards of Conduct & removal of definitions to avoid confusion and decrease length of Code
- Additional language to address optional legislative or policy changes
 - Weapons language to address any state or federal laws passed
 - Potential alcohol policy change
- Addition of student notification of the right to have an **advisor**

Edits to Proposed Code

- Edits to “**Interim Administrative Actions**” and addition of interim restriction(s) language
- **Board composition** exceptions for sexual misconduct and research misconduct
- Additional **ground for appeal** based on “personal prejudice or bias of SCB member”
- Addition of **research misconduct** information
- **Consolidates** student and student organization rights to formal hearing

Questions and Feedback?

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Proposed Student Conduct Process*



* The terms "student" and "student organization" are used interchangeably