

# Responding to Behavioral Misconduct in the Classroom

## **Whom do I contact to discuss a particular case of classroom misbehavior?**

Associate Dean of Students for Judicial Affairs Joseph Navarro or Assistant Judicial Affairs Coordinator in the Judicial Affairs Office. Both can be reached at 893-4569 or via e-mail at [navarro-j@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:navarro-j@sa.ucsb.edu) or [tozier-a@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:tozier-a@sa.ucsb.edu). Faculty should feel free to make contact at any point in the process of trying to deal with a disruptive or disturbing classroom situation. If you are confronted with a violent or potentially dangerous situation, do not hesitate to call campus police first (9-911).

## **Whom do I contact to arrange a presentation for my department or teaching assistants on this topic?**

Angie Tozier, Assistant Judicial Affairs Coordinator in the Office of Judicial Affairs. She can be reached at 893-5016 or via e-mail at [tozier-a@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:tozier-a@sa.ucsb.edu).

## **What behavioral responsibilities do students have in the classroom?**

All students are expected to conduct themselves in the classroom "in a manner consistent with the university's function as an educational institution" Any conduct that interferes with university teaching, research or administration is subject to possible disciplinary action.

## **What authority do faculty have in the classroom?**

Faculty have the authority to regulate behavior in their classrooms and to refer violations of reasonable requests to the Judicial Affairs Office for possible disciplinary action.

## **Can a student be excluded from a class for violations of behavioral rules?**

Yes. After putting the student on notice about the objectionable conduct involved and giving the student the opportunity to respond (which may include an opportunity to correct the behavior), a faculty member may exclude from his or her class any student, either temporarily or permanently.

## **Are there procedures that must be followed in order to exclude a student from a class for behavioral reasons?**

Yes. Students must be given notice (either verbally or in written form) of the reason for their exclusion. Then the department chairperson must be notified so that he/she can review the matter. If the student is being permanently excluded, the dean or provost of the college must also be notified. The misconduct and subsequent steps taken should then be reported to the associate dean of students for judicial affairs.

## **Can students appeal faculty-implemented discipline?**

Yes. A student may appeal by submitting a written statement of appeal to the department chairperson along with a copy for the dean or provost of the college. The chair may choose to either respond to the appeal him or herself, or refer the matter to the Student-Faculty Committee on Student Conduct for an advisory opinion.

## **If I refer classroom behavioral misconduct to the associate dean of students for judicial affairs, what will happen?**

It depends. The incident may be handled either formally or informally, depending on the circumstances and the wishes of the faculty member. If an informal resolution is requested, the student may be required to meet with the associate dean to discuss the behavior and may receive a verbal or written warning. If a formal resolution is requested, the case may be referred to the Student-Faculty Committee on Student Conduct which may recommend sanctions up to and including dismissal from the university.

## **What are some of the most common campus-wide policies that may apply to classroom misbehavior?**

- Physical abuse, violence, threats of violence, or conduct that threatens the health and safety of others
- Sexual harassment or stalking as defined by campus policy
- Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research or administration
- Intimidation, harassment, disorderly and/or lewd conduct
- Participation in disturbance of the peace or unlawful assembly in a classroom
- Failure to comply with the directions of an instructor acting in performance of his or her duties, including failure to provide identification upon request

## **Where can I find the official campus rules that define and regulate the procedures mentioned above?**

In chapter VII of *The University of California Santa Barbara Campus Regulations Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations and Students*, which is available free of charge from the Judicial Affairs Office and which also can be found on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu>.