DEALING WITH INCIDENTS OF DISRUPTIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM

Preamble

The purpose of this document is to give faculty a resource when dealing with disruptive students in the classroom. The goal is to assure a classroom environment that is supportive of teaching and learning for all involved. The document also provides steps professors may take for incidents of disruptive behavior in the classroom.

Definition

A disruptive student is a student who engages in distracting, disturbing, and/or disrupting classroom behavior that interferes with the process of teaching and learning.

Procedures for dealing with incidents of disruptive behavior

- Any student whose classroom behavior interferes with the learning environment should be informed by the instructor that his/her actions are disruptive. The instructor should explain how the behavior disrupts the teaching/learning process, inform the student that if the behavior continues it may be reported to the Department Chair, Dean’s Office, or Student Affairs, and request that the student cease the behavior. This explanation and request may take place in the classroom at the time of the behavior or at another time and place deemed appropriate by the instructor (e.g. during office hours).
- If a student’s disruptive behavior continues following the request that it cease, the instructor should refer the case to the Departmental Chair for handling. The Departmental Chair in correspondence with Student Affairs may deal with the case according to established student discipline procedures.
- A student may be dismissed by the instructor from any class period in which disruptive behavior persists following the instructor’s request that it cease. If the student refuses a request by the instructor to leave the classroom following persistent disruptive behavior, the UMKC Police should be contacted at 235-1515. Attendance at subsequent class period is allowed unless the disruptive behavior continues.
- If at any time the instructor believes the student poses a physical threat to him/her or to other students, the UMKC Police should be contacted at 235-1515.
- A student involved in an incident of disruptive behavior who believes he/she has been improperly treated may seek assistance though established department, school, and University student grievance procedures. (http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/gc/rules/programs/200/)
- If a course instructor is unsatisfied at any point in the handling of an incident of disruptive behavior prior to its final resolution, he/she should contact the Departmental Chair to discuss the matter.

UMKC Resources

- Departmental Chair & Dean’s Office
- University Police – 235-1515
- UMKC Helpline – 235-2222
- Counseling – Dr. Arnie Abels, Director, 235-1218
- Diversity, Access, & Equity Office
  - Michael Bates, Director of Affirmative Action, 235-6910
- Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
  - Assistant Chancellor Student Affairs and Enrollment Management – Mr. Mel Tyler, 235-1142
  - Assistant Dean of Students – Dr. Jeff Traiger, 235-5660
  - Assistant Dean of Students – Dr. Eric Grospitch
- Office of the Provost – Academic Affairs
  - Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies – Dr. Denis Medeiros -235-1301

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