

Years ago students found responsible for drug violations were automatically suspended from the University. The problem with mandatory sanctions is they leave little room for flexibility. The drug dealer and the student who took one hit from a joint were treated the same.

So the University removed the automatic suspension. The following year the Student Conduct Board would sanction responsible parties to 40, 50, or 60 hours of community service with the reasoning that it could have been worse – under the previous policy the student could have been suspended.

The Board now has a more reasonable approach. First violations result in general probation, an on-line educational course, and parental notification. Second and/or extremely serious violations result in suspension.

After an upward trend of violations last year, the Residential Life staff decided that we must take more serious action to avoid aiding and abetting a growing campus drug culture. Students were notified that if they violated the drug policy on campus they would generally be evicted or reassigned to other halls.

As with the vandalism response, this has been effective in reducing the number of violations. Four students have been removed from campus for violating the drug policy this year.

As an academic institution it is our responsibility to maintain an academic environment. Drug use doesn't fit in the equation.