Structure of the University Judicial System

Summary/Purpose: To describe the structure of the University judicial system for non-academic discipline.

The University judicial system, under the direction of the Office of the Dean of Students and The Department of Student Housing and Residence Life, is composed of administrative hearing officers, the University Judicial Council, The Department of Student Housing and Residence Life Judicial Board, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Chancellor, and other University hearing bodies. These bodies and officials are charged with hearing and/or reviewing cases of nonacademic misconduct. Cases involving academic misconduct or academic dishonesty should follow the separate judicial or disciplinary processes set forth by the Office of the Provost.

University of Mississippi Judicial Council
University Judicial Council is a primary finder of fact and decision-making body in the University judicial system and consists of a student judicial chair, ten students (one of whom will serve as assistant student chair), five faculty, and five staff members. A representative from the Office of the Dean of Students serves as the advisor to the council.

The position of Student Judicial Chair is elected by the student body through the University’s annual Associated Student Body (ASB) campus-wide elections. The remaining student members are selected by a process determined by the ASB. The Student Judicial Chair shall appoint an assistant student chair. The five faculty members will be identified by the Faculty Senate and the five staff members by the Staff Council.

The University Judicial Council, acting through a panel of at least seven members (six members plus the chair or assistant chair presiding), hears and decides cases involving alleged individual or organizational violations of University policy and any other case assigned to it by the Office of the Dean of Students. Decisions of the University Judicial Council are final, subject to appeal.

Appeals Process
Cases involving violations of University policy heard by the University Judicial Council or the Department of Housing and Residence Life Judicial Board may be appealed to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or his or her designee. For cases not involving suspension or expulsion, the Chancellor has delegated final authority of review to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

If the sanction appealed includes suspension or expulsion from the University, that decision should first be appealed to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, whose decision may be further appealed to the Chancellor. In accordance with the policies and bylaws of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, the decision of the Chancellor will be final.
Other Hearing Bodies

Individual colleges, schools, and professional programs may also have their own individual judicial processes for student discipline and/or to make academic judgments based on a student’s fitness for continuance in his or her respective program of study. In addition, the department of Student Housing and Residence Life may place a student’s Housing contract under review for alleged University policy violations.