

Office of Academic Affairs

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February 11, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: cjm6@pdx.edu

Chal McCollough

RE: Final Decision on Student Conduct Appeal
Conduct Decision Dated October 18, 2021
Student Number: 911866257

Dear Mr. McCollough:

This letter is the decision on your appeal of a student conduct matter scheduled to be heard by Portland State University (PSU) Conduct Officer Erica Geller on October 15, 2021.¹ The conduct charge arose out of conduct that occurred on or about October 7, 2021, when were alleged to have engaged in course of in appropriate email communications with a PSU email address, vaccines@pdx.edu, which disrupted to the work of employees at the University's Student Health and Counseling Center (SHAC). You were charged with a violation of the PSU Code of Student Conduct (Code), Code Section V, subsection (1), obstruction or disruption of administration or other University activities. You did not attend the October 15 hearing and Ms. Geller decided the matter in your absence based on the information then available. Ms. Geller found you responsible for the misconduct charged.

On October 19, you filed an appeal of Ms. Geller's decision. On your appeal form you indicated that an appeal should be granted because there was an error in the conduct process, because there is relevant information available now that was not available at the time of the hearing, and because the sanction was outside the authority of the University. In arriving at the decision below, I have reviewed the student conduct appeal form and the narrative statement you submitted with the form. I have also reviewed information from the student conduct file.

Your appeal is **DENIED** for the following reasons:

- The first basis of your appeal is that that you claim there was an error in the conduct process. You have not identified what that error is nor why any such error was material to the decision and process. Accordingly, this is not a basis that would support granting your appeal.
- Regarding the next basis of your appeal concerning new information, you have not offered or identified any new information that was not available to you at the time of the hearing. The only information you provide in your appeal is information about your personal and political beliefs about vaccines and the legal rights and responsibilities as you understand them. This is not new information, and had you chosen to attend the hearing, you could have presented this information about your perspective. Thus, this is also not a basis to support granting the appeal.
- And, finally, you allege that the sanction was outside the authority of the University. I do not concur. The University has the authority to issue the sanctions it issued here, which include probation

¹ Requests for appeal are heard under section XII of the Student Code of Conduct, which requires appeals to be filed in writing within 10 business days following the date of the letter notifying you of the outcome of the conduct hearing. The outcome letter was dated October 18, 2021, and you filed the appeal a day later; therefore, the appeal is timely.

and an educational essay. Code section XIV, para. (4) and (6).

Accordingly, I **AFFIRM** the decision and sanctions imposed by Ms. Geller. The sanctions and conduct fee assigned to you remain in effect and, for your ease of reference, are repeated below:

1. **Disciplinary Probation—Complete Date of October 1, 2022:** Your conduct was inconsistent with the Student Conduct Code and you are on probation through the completion date, during which time additional Student Conduct Code violations could result in more severe sanctions (additional details provided in your October 18 decision letter from Ms. Geller).
2. **Educational Assignment re Decision Making—Complete Date November 1, 2021:** You are to read and respond to a handout about making better decisions and write an essay no less than two pages in length (additional details provided in your October 18 decision letter from Ms. Geller).
3. **Conduct Fee:** The conduct fee of \$20 will remain posted to your student account.

This decision is final. If you have further questions about this matter, please contact the Office of the Dean of Student Life by phone at 503.725.4422 or by email at conduct@pdx.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SJ', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Susan Jeffords, PhD
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

cc: Mike Walsh, Dean of Student Life
Erica Geller, Investigator