

WAC 132M-126-085 Student conduct committee—Initial decision.

(1) At the conclusion of the hearing, the student conduct committee shall permit the parties to make closing arguments in whatever form it wishes to receive them. The committee also may permit each party to propose findings, conclusions, and/or a proposed decision for its consideration.

(2) Within 20 calendar days following the conclusion of the hearing or the committee's receipt of closing arguments, the committee shall issue an initial decision in accordance with RCW 34.05.461 and WAC 10-08-210. The initial decision shall include findings on all material issues of fact and conclusions on all material issues of law, including which, if any, provisions of the student conduct code were violated. Any findings based substantially on the credibility of evidence or witnesses' demeanor shall be identified and explained.

(3) The committee's initial order shall also include a determination on appropriate discipline, if any. If the matter was referred to the committee by the student conduct officer, the committee shall identify and impose disciplinary sanction(s) or conditions, if any, as authorized in the student code. If the matter is an appeal by a party, the committee may affirm, reverse, or modify the disciplinary sanction and/or conditions imposed by the student conduct officer and/or impose additional disciplinary sanction(s) or conditions as authorized herein.

(4) The committee chair shall cause copies of the initial decision to be served on the parties and their legal counsel of record. The committee chair shall also promptly transmit a copy of the decision and the record of the committee's proceedings to the president.

(5) In cases involving sex-based harassment, the initial decision shall be served on all parties simultaneously, as well as the Title IX coordinator.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW, RCW 28B.50.140(13), and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 25-01-083, s 132M-126-085, filed 12/13/24, effective 1/13/25. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.140. WSR 21-01-145, § 132M-126-085, filed 12/17/20, effective 1/17/21.]