Noteworthy Clarifications/Changes/Additions for 2016-2017 to
The Duke Community Standard in Practice: A Guide for Undergraduates

- **Animals on Campus** – Updated to reflect that, “With the exception of service animals, animals are prohibited inside any university facility, unless authorized by the space manager: responsible for that facility/space.”

- **Organization of the Undergraduate Disciplinary System** – Updated to reflect that the Vice President for Student Affairs appoints the chair and other members of the Appellate Board.

- **The Disciplinary Process**—Clarified that a “preponderance of evidence” standard is used in determining violations of the Harassment Policy (as is the current standard for Student Sexual Misconduct Policy allegations).

- **Hearing Panels**—Codified long-standing practice that a staff member from the Office of Student Conduct serves as a hearing facilitator and is a non-voting presence in the hearing.

- **Undergraduate Conduct Board Hearings** – Eliminated character reference statements.

- **Student Sexual Misconduct Policy** –
  - Added ombudsperson as a confidential resource not required to report incidents of sexual misconduct under university policy and within the scope of this position’s professional responsibilities.
  - Added paragraph on “Immediate and/or Interim Measures” available in response to a report.
  - Changed responsibility for investigating a report to investigators in the Office for Institutional Equity.
  - Codified ability of, and timeline for, complainant and respondent to respond in writing to the investigator’s report.
  - Eliminated character witness statements.
  - Codified timeline for submitting names of material witnesses and the information to which the witnesses would attest.
  - Codified expectations of complainant and respondent in submitting additional information for a hearing packet.
  - Noted non-voting presence of OSC hearing facilitator in panel hearing.
  - Added paragraph on “Long-Term/Indefinite Measures and/or Remedies.”
Updated the appeals process:

- Appeals are limited to five pages (12-point font, 1” margins).
- Updated grounds of appeal to two: 1) new information not reasonably available at the time of the hearing that is material to the hearing panel’s decision; 2) procedural error(s) that materially impacted the hearing panel’s decision.
- Appeal panels consist of three persons.
- Codified timelines for submission of information and a request for any exception.
- Added information on ability of appellee to review appellant’s appeal and submit a written response.
- Clarified ability of appellate panel to convene a meeting with the parties, either on its own or at the request of the appellant/appellee.
- Changed to 20 business days the general timeline during which appeals are considered and a decision rendered.

- Updated flowchart illustrating process of responding to reports.

- **Sanctions**— Added that: “Should a hearing panel/officer determine that a violation was motivated in part or whole by race, color, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, genetic information, or age, the hearing panel/officer may consider this an aggravating factor that increases the stringency of the sanction(s).”

- **Appeals**— Same updates as described above under the “Student Sexual Misconduct Policy” apply to all other appeals.

- **Faculty-Student Resolution**— Expanded to 96 hours the amount of time a student has to decide on whether to accept a faculty-student resolution as proposed by an instructor for a course.