

Bridget Burnhisel
Director of Student Conduct
Holland Union Building

Dear Mrs. Burnhisel,

I write to request an appeal for the outcome of my recent panel hearing outlined in a letter I received on August 12, 2023 from my hearing panel chairperson (include his/her name and title). I am appealing on both the grounds that the sanctions imposed were excessively harsh for the violation and that new or relevant information, not available at the time of the hearing, has arisen. I do not ask that the finding of responsible be revisited, but that the sanction of suspension be lessened. I do plan to complete the other sanctions of parental notification, counseling assessment and a success action plan. I will outline below how each of these has been met.

Excessive Sanction

The sanction of a one-year suspension is excessive for my incident. My actions the night of August 1, 2023 were out of line and uncharacteristic of me. As you know, I took responsibility for assaulting my friend, James. It is important to note that my actions were not malicious, predatory or spiteful. I did not set out to inflict harm on James. We were simply debating in a collegial manner, and the conflict escalated, resulting in my striking James in the nose. We are once again friends and cordial. I hope you will see that we have managed our conflict accordingly and take that into account in making a decision. I ask that you reduce my one-year suspension to stayed suspension, as I do not deem that I am a threat to the Dickinson Community and I have already undergone two meetings with a counselor and have joined a group therapy session for anger management.

New or Relevant Information

At the time of the hearing, James's testimony was not available due to international travel. However, he has agreed to testify on my behalf, despite being the victim in this incident. James can attest that once I hit him that evening, I immediately had great remorse and escorted him to the Department of Public Safety to see medical attention for his broken nose. He will also share the details of our discussion the days following that resulted in my decision to seek counseling.

I hope you will see that I have made significant progress, and that I am eager to contribute to the Dickinson Community in positive ways. Attending Dickinson has been the best thing that has occurred in my life, and I am forever regretful of my actions on August 1, 2023, however, I do not think they warrant leaving Dickinson College. I appreciate your consideration of my appeal, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Cordially,