

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



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### **Laurier requires 18 students to appear at disciplinary hearing**

*Waterloo (April 28)* -- Wilfrid Laurier University is requiring its students arrested or charged in connection with a party on Ezra Avenue on April 22 to appear at a disciplinary hearing.

The university will mail letters to 18 students arrested or charged by the Waterloo Regional Police Service for offences ranging from violations of the Liquor Control Act to assault causing bodily harm. The letters, signed by president Lorna Marsden, inform the recipients that they must appear at a disciplinary hearing in mid-May.

In the letters, Marsden states that the arrests and charges will be dealt with, by the appropriate civil authority but, as president, she intends to initiate disciplinary proceedings.

"The behaviour of those students involved has brought the university into disrepute and is prejudicial to the best interests of the university, its student body, its alumni . . . and all those other citizens who are supporters of this institution," the letters say.

"I cannot over-emphasize the serious repercussions that the events of April 22nd and 23rd have had upon this university, on the future employment of our students, the placement of co-op students, and the perception which municipal officials and the general public have of our Laurier community."

Before disciplinary action is taken, the 10 students arrested in connection with the party will have an opportunity to be heard by a panel including the president, the vice-president: academic, and other university leaders.

*(more)*

Marsden indicates the university sanctions available against any student found to have violated the Code of Conduct "include suspension or expulsion from the university, or such other penalties as are deemed appropriate under the circumstances, which include withholding of grades or transcripts, a prohibition against graduation at the May convocation, or possibly probation for the balance of your time here as a student."

The eight students charged with offences under the Liquor Control Act will have an opportunity to be heard by a student disciplinary panel before any disciplinary action is taken. If the hearing determines a student has been guilty of a breach of the Code of Conduct, "an appropriate penalty will be imposed," the letters say.

The individual hearings will take place before returning students receive transcripts or enroll for any further courses and before graduating students are awarded degrees and diplomas at convocation ceremonies on May 26 and 27.

According to its policy on student conduct, the university may take disciplinary action against any student for improper conduct on or off the campus.

Before the party, the university discussed the situation with student leadership and the City of Waterloo, encouraged positive relations with area landlords, and distributed a cautionary notice to students.

Laurier values its relationships with the City of Waterloo and its campus neighbours and shares their concerns regarding the event. The university will continue to work to address these concerns .