May 17, 2024

Dear Student,

Our efforts to prevent students from undertaking an unauthorized occupation of Laird Hall today reflected our desire to avoid a need for College discipline. The administration’s continued participation in ongoing dialogue was also aimed at a goal of enabling you to express your views safely and productively.

Your choice to enter Laird Hall while the building was closed today, and against the clear instructions of a College official, was a violation of Carleton’s Community Standards Policy. As we shared directly with you and the broader Carleton community on May 9, this policy prohibits the disruption of College activities; breach of peace on College-owned property; refusal to comply with the directions of a College official; harassment, intimidation, or other conduct that threatens or endangers the health, well being, or safety of oneself or any person on College property; and unauthorized access to facilities, including staying overnight in a nonresidential building, among other activities.

Beyond the Community Standards Policy violation, the College has a legal obligation to not exceed occupancy limits and to ensure an unobstructed egress path in any campus building. The current occupation of Laird Hall is in violation of fire code and building safety standards.

If you remain inside the building after 5 p.m today, you will be facing Disciplinary Probation. This sanction means you will not be in good standing with the college. Past precedent for typical consequences include ineligibility for OCS participation, loss of eligibility for awards and honors, and if you are a senior, the retention of your diploma until the probationary period has been completed, which may be up to a year.

While on Disciplinary Probation, any additional policy violations, including disregarding subsequent warnings, will lead to further sanctions. The next level of disciplinary action in our Student Conduct Process is suspension. You can expect to receive notification of the disciplinary process later this evening, if you have not vacated the building.

Please be in touch with Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Conduct Amy Sillanpa with any questions about the disciplinary process.

Sincerely,

Carolyn H. Livingston
Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students