

Crotty said. "You have to have a counseling relationship. To me, it's just bizarre that it would be otherwise."

"I regret that that mistrust is there. I suppose that it doesn't have to be secret. It's just more effective if it is."

But professional journalism organizations disagree.

Society of Professional Journalists President Steven Geimann said the hearings should be open as a matter of public safety.

In the November 2 issue of Editor

and Publisher, Geimann said, "Crime is crime, and it should be treated the same way on campus as a crime off campus."

SPJ is urging Congress to open all campus judicial proceedings to the public.

"When we encounter anybody who in the slightest is trying to conceal a record, close a meeting, or prevent public scrutiny of a public action," Geimann told Editor and Publisher, "we scream loudly, we file lawsuits, we protest, we write about it."

## The numbers

Most students who end up in the discipline office at 900 Assembly Street don't have a judicial board hearing. Their case is solved through meetings with Crotty or Brian Polding, director of judicial affairs.

Only about 10 percent of the more than 200 cases the office handles each year come before the judicial board.

"Students would prefer to get it over with and to have someone they

trust and know and recognize as a professional to make a decision in their case," Crotty said.

Students can always decide they want a judicial board hearing. But most either go through Pre-Trial Intervention, a program run out of the 5th Circuit Solicitor's office which allows first-time offenders who have been arrested to clear their records.

One junior who was charged with grand larceny of over \$5,000 said he chose intervention because he

thought the outcome of a hearing might be more harsh.

"Basically I knew if I went through the judicial board I probably would have gotten in more trouble than what happened just because from what I understand your peers are actually less forgiving," he said.

The student, who did not want to be identified, was sanctioned to "suspension held in abeyance."

"As long as I don't get in trouble."

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