

HARVARD PORTRAIT

ent zone.” She had met with divestment advocates seven times, she disclosed, and the Corporation Committee on Shareholder Responsibility had done so three times. She supported “reasoned and civil discourse,” but not blocking buildings or “videotaping me and then editing and portraying my words in ways that misrepresent them” (referring to an incident earlier in the semester). In the future, she said with an edge, she looked forward to faculty ideas on climate change rooted in “reason, rigor, respect, and truth.”

To underscore the point, in a subsequent interview she told the *Crimson* (“Faust Says She Will Work with Faculty, Not Divest Group, to Discuss Climate Change”) that an open forum on the issue was not on the table. The newspaper quoted her characterizing the Divest Harvard demand as “a chance to draw attention to itself,” rather than promoting substantive discourse.

Ratcheting up pressure on the issue, on May 7, Stanford announced its decision not to invest in coal-mining companies, given the severe climate impact of burning that fuel. (Smaller schools had previously decided to divest, but no research universities with Stanford’s heft and large endowment.) Stanford’s advisory panel on the issue includes students, faculty and staff members, and alumni. The trustees endorsed their recommendations, and acknowledged the role of the student Fossil Free Stanford group’s advocacy in catalyzing “an important discussion.” The chair of the trustees’ committee on investment responsibility told *The New York Times* that the decision on coal “is not the ending point. It’s a process,” as research on alternative energy sources progresses. She amplified, “Don’t interpret this as a pass on other things.”

Addressing Sexual Assaults

NATIONAL CONCERNS about sexual assaults on campuses, and institutional responses to them, erupted at Harvard, too, in early spring. Among the salient developments:

- On March 31, the *Crimson* published “Dear Harvard: You Win,” a long, anonymous, first-person account of an unwanted sexual encounter. It alleged that the College’s response was insensitive and shaped



Naomi Oreskes

When Naomi Oreskes wrote an article in 2004 summarizing the scientific consensus on climate change, she recalls, “I was treated as if I had thrown some kind of grenade.” Public discourse at the time treated global warming as an active scientific debate, but the history of science professor, who arrived from the University of California, San Diego, last fall, had assumed journalists were simply confused about the evidence. As she began examining her critics’ connections, though, Oreskes uncovered a very different story, and in *Merchants of Doubt* (2010), she and her coauthor, Eric M. Conway, described how deliberate, industry-funded misinformation campaigns had serially misled the media and obscured the scientific consensus on the harmful effects of smoking, acid rain, and the ozone hole—and now, climate change. Her research has also taught Oreskes the need for academics to “speak clearly and crisply” on issues of social and political importance; recently, she signed an open faculty letter calling for Harvard’s divestment from fossil fuels. Her new book with Conway, *The Collapse of Western Civilization* (Columbia), to be released in July, imagines a future with climate change run rampant. The ability to “range broadly,” she says, is the appeal of history of science. Trained as a mining geologist at Imperial College London, Oreskes began exploring the history of her discipline as a graduate student at Stanford. She published in both fields until, she quips, she had children: “I couldn’t have three careers.” With her hydrologist husband and their two grown daughters, she spends her free time outdoors, hiking, camping, and occasionally climbing: “I still like to be on rocks.”

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by antiquated procedures and standards. The article received enormous attention, given its graphic detail, the attention already focused on campus sexual assaults nationwide, and the presence of alcohol as a factor in the case—one of the frequent complications in determining whether sexual activity was consensual.

● President Drew Faust e-mailed the community on April 3 to announce the formation of a task force to “Develop recommendations about how Harvard can improve efforts to prevent sexual misconduct.” Former provost Steven E. Hyman, a psychiatric researcher, chairs the group. (On May 13, he wrote to Faust suggesting, on behalf of the task force, several short-term measures: that Harvard augment staffing and resources for the Office of Sexual Assault and Prevention Response—which was created in 2003, when he was provost; create a website with resources for people who have experienced sexual assault or harassment; improve student orientation and training by this fall; and survey the campus to determine the incidence of sexual assault. Faust immediately

accepted all the recommendations.)

The task force’s focus complements work done by the University’s new Harvard-wide Title IX coordinator, Mia Karvonides, hired in 2013. (Title IX refers to the relevant 1972 federal education amendments that prohibit gender discrimination). Karvonides has been overseeing efforts to bring Harvard policies into compliance with what the charge to the task force termed “evolving legal requirements”—an updating on which the University has trailed other institutions. Those requirements include new federal legislation, 2011 guidance from the U.S. Department of Education’s (DOE) Office of Civil Rights, and a cabinet-level task force convened by President Barack Obama. Among the substantive matters at issue on many campuses are language requiring affirmative consent to sexual activity, and, at Harvard, using “the preponderance of evidence” as the standard of proof in adjudicating cases (the 2011 DOE guidance)—rather than the Administrative Board’s stricter requirement that it be “sufficiently persuaded” a violation occurred. Almost all Ivy League schools had adopted the “preponderance” standard



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by this spring.

● Also on April 3, the *Crimson* broke the news that a member of the student group Our Harvard Can Do Better had filed a complaint with the DOE civil-rights office on March 28, alleging that the College's sexual-assault policies violate federal law. She and another lead complainant, and testimonials from 10 other students, focused on the conflicting guidance they received from House advisers about their options and on the inconsistent information on changing residences, among other issues. (Some 55 schools, including the College and the Law School, are now being investigated by the civil-rights office for issues related to their handling of sexual assaults.)

● At an Undergraduate Council forum on April 16, Faust disclosed that Harvard had filed its proposed, updated University policy on sexual assaults with the DOE office for review—potentially addressing the legal-compliance challenges. Securing approval, a mandated first step in improving campus conditions, is not automatic: Tufts and the government engaged in a public standoff over whether its revised policies comply with the federal standards; and the White House and DOE office subsequently issued a sample survey for investigating conditions on campuses, a checklist for sexual-misconduct policies, and other guidance—dozens of pages of new documentation for lawyers to process.

Each school will have to bring its policies into conformity with the University requirements, once those pass federal muster. On May 6, Dean



Mia Karvonides

MITCH GREEN

Yesterday's News

From the pages of the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* and *Harvard Magazine*

1914 The outbreak of World War I traps more than 40 faculty members and close to 30 traveling fellows in Europe and sends at least two professors with French citizenship home to fight.

1939 President Conant prepares to move his office from University Hall, where Harvard's presidents have worked since the building opened in 1815, to newly refurbished Massachusetts Hall.

1944 The summer heat has brought out the "whites" of the Navy V-12 students; skivvies, jumpers, and bell-bottom trousers hang out to dry under the willows of Eliot House.

1954 Hurricane Carol strikes with 120-mile-per-hour winds on August 31, toppling an oak and three of the oldest elms in the Yard, de-roofing the Newell Boathouse shed, and drop-

ping a finial through the roof of Memorial Hall.

The two most popular summer-session courses are Professor Howard Mumford Jones's "American Literature" and visiting author Frank O'Connor's "The Nineteenth Century Novel."

1959 Quincy House is rushed toward completion for September occupancy.

1969 Sixteen students have been required to leave Harvard because of their actions during the occupation of University Hall on April 9-10. Twenty others have been given a suspended requirement to withdraw while 102 more have been placed under warning.

1974 *Newsweek* reports that B is the average grade in American colleges. Harvard reports that the average grade for the College as a whole is a B+.

1994 Harvard Square landmark Out of Town News has been sold to an out-of-town owner, Hudson County News of New York.

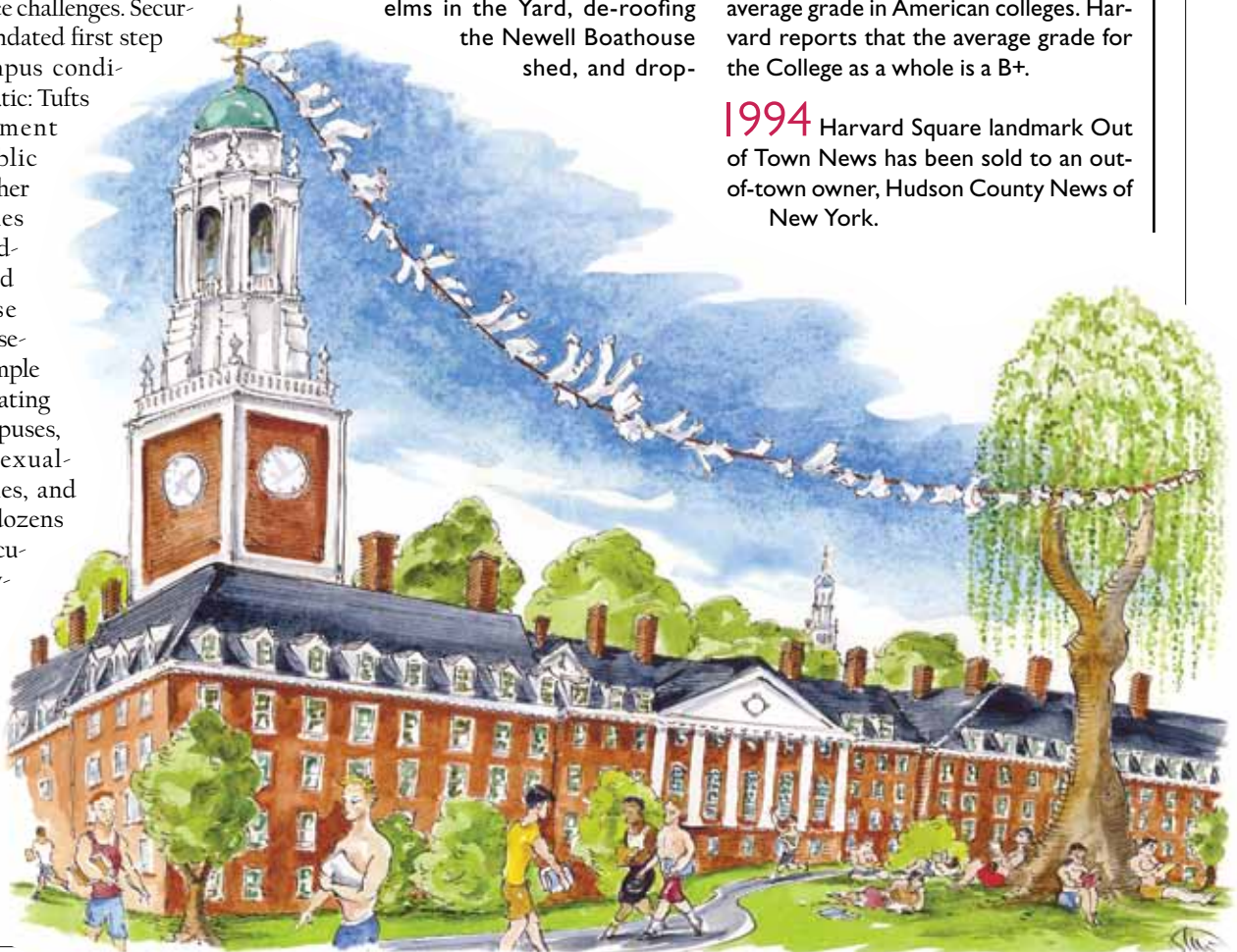


Illustration by Mark Steele

Michael D. Smith announced the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Committee on Sexual Misconduct Policies and Procedures to lead this work within FAS. Its chair, professor of history Alison Johnson, also serves on Hyman's prevention task force.

All that work may be the easy part. The task force is likely to recommend broader education for students and training for administrators, with an eye toward changes

in campus culture. The mix of young people exploring relationships, sometimes accompanied by access to alcohol, in a new setting away from home, has never been free of emotional complications, nor wholly guided by rationality, mature experience, or rules in a student handbook.

Lest anyone involved forget that Harvard, too, is a worldly community (even apart from matters of sexual conduct),

Dean Smith had the unhappy duty of informing the faculty on April 1 that three undergraduates had been expelled earlier in the year for violating rules on physical violence (in all three instances), plus diverse infractions concerning drugs, alcohol, and firearms (in two of the cases). The challenge in addressing sexual assault is that the University is populated by imperfect human beings, not angels.

Spring, Fevered

AMID the Divest Harvard protestors' late-April blockade of the president's office (see page 22) and the debate about sexual assault (see page 23), other issues roiled the end of the semester; several are summarized here.

A College Honor Code

FOLLOWING four years of research and outreach by its committee on academic integrity—a period punctuated by the 2012-2013 investigation of the largest recent case of suspected misconduct on an examination, and punishment of dozens of undergraduates—the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) on May 6 enacted an honor code for undergraduates.

"[T]o strengthen the dedication to academic integrity," the College adopted a code described as follows:

Members of the Harvard College community commit themselves to producing academic work with integrity—that is, work that adheres to the scholarly and intellectual standards of accurate attribution of sources, appropriate collection and use of data, and transparent acknowledgment of the contribution of others to our ideas, discoveries, interpretations, and conclusions. Cheating on exams or problem sets, plagiarizing or misrepresenting the ideas or language of someone else as one's own, falsifying data, or any other instance of academic dishonesty violates the standards of our community, as well as the standards of the wider world of learning and affairs.

"Commitment" to the code, which takes effect in the fall of 2015, is to be demonstrated through an "affirmation of integrity," the specifics of which will

be recommended by the dean of Harvard College and ultimately considered by the full faculty for inclusion in the *Handbook for Students*. Language circulated to the faculty in March included this language for the affirmation: "I attest to the honesty of my academic work and affirm that it conforms to the standards of the Harvard College Honor Code." Cases concerning possible violations will be adjudi-



Jay M. Harris, dean of undergraduate education, led the academic-integrity committee as it drafted an honor code; it takes effect in the fall of 2015.

ated by a new Honor Board, not the existing Administrative Board; members will include undergraduates, resident deans, professors, administrators, and graduate students; the dean or his designee will serve as chair.

Adoption was never in doubt, and the measure passed overwhelmingly, but the faculty debate aired several criticisms. Some professors objected to the appropriateness of administering an oath or affirmation to the Harvard community, or part of it. Others questioned the efficacy of such procedures for promoting appropriate academic behavior, and pointed to broader measures shaping the campus culture. And there were, generally, concerns about an asymmetrical process that seems to single out student conduct without explicitly emphasizing professors' reciprocal obligations to the students whom they teach.

Rakesh Khurana, who becomes dean of Harvard College on July 1, will be responsible for implementation; he participated in the committee's work. For details about the code, its background, and the debate, see <http://harvardmag.com/honor-14>.

Separately, in a sort of coda to the honor-code debate and the 2012-2013 academic-misconduct case, two central figures in that grueling investigation announced that they are leaving Harvard. John L. "Jay" Ellison, secretary of the Administrative Board since 2005, will become dean of students at the University of Chicago. Adams House resident dean Sharon L. Howell—an outspoken critic of searches of resident deans' e-mail account headings after it appeared that Ad Board information about the investigation had been passed to news media—is moving to Northfield Mount Hermon School. (See below on the new communications-privacy policy.)

E-privacy Policy Approved

THE HARVARD CORPORATION in late March approved a new, University-wide policy on access to electronic communications. The