Report of the National Hearings Committee

The National Hearings Committee conducted a hearing on January 11, 2025, regarding charges against Regional Vice Chair for Region 1 (RVC1) Franck Mounier, RVC2 Steve Welch, RVC4 Matt Crawford, RVC5 Nancy Campbell, RVC6 David McCallister, RVC8 Michael Eager, RVC9 Kelly-marie Jones, RVC10 Katharine Klasen, Communications Officer Lily Noonan, and Membership Officer Kimberly Strickland. Its Decision was issued on January 14, 2025.

The charges involved conduct that occurred at the September 21, 2024 AMC meeting.

The National Hearings Committee ruled that each of the ten Respondents intentionally violated the Bylaws of American Mensa in several ways by their actions at that meeting, and that those violations constituted acts inimical to Mensa. The Decision states, in part: "To us, the actions of the Respondents in intentionally violating the Bylaws of American Mensa are particularly egregious because they are in direct conflict with the Respondents' responsibilities as directors of the corporation American Mensa, Ltd. All members of American Mensa are bound to act in accordance with the Bylaws, of course, but that is especially true of the Respondents in their capacity as directors."

As a consequence of those acts inimical, the National Hearings Committee imposed the following sanctions:

(a) removing each of the Respondents from every national, regional, and local Mensa office they currently hold, and

(b) barring each of the Respondents from serving in any national, regional, or local Mensa office, whether through election or appointment, for a specified period of time.

    (1) For the non-voting members of the AMC among the Respondents, i.e., Noonan and Strickland, the period is six years from the date of the Decision.

(2) For the voting members of the AMC among the Respondents, i.e., Mounier, Welch, Crawford, Campbell, McCallister, Eager, Jones, and Klasen, the period is twelve years from the date of the Decision.

For both of these sanctions, the "national office" reference includes, but is not limited to, any and all positions on the AMC, National Ombudsman, chair or committee member of any national Mensa event, proctor, SIGHT Coordinator, and Gifted Youth Coordinator. The "regional office" reference includes, but is not limited to, assistant RVC and any other position appointed by an RVC or a Regional Coordinator. The "any local office" reference includes, but is not limited to, all positions on a local Executive Committee and all positions appointed by a local Executive Committee or a member thereof, including Regional Gathering and other event positions.

These penalties are among those authorized by the Bylaws of American Mensa, Article IX, section 5, which provides that: "A member may be suspended from specific activities, offices, positions or functions, for a specified time, or suspended from membership for a specified time, or expelled from membership, for acts inimical to the society."

The Bylaws of American Mensa, Article IX, section 5, further provides that: "A decision by the Hearings Committee to suspend or expel a member from American Mensa, Ltd., shall require the concurrence of the American Mensa Committee." As neither of the penalties imposed is suspension nor expulsion from American Mensa, Ltd., an automatic review by the AMC under the Bylaws of American Mensa is not available in this matter. In accordance with Hearings Rule 13.F.1, the penalties are imposed with immediate effect, i.e., starting on January 14, 2025.