

[In these minutes: OSCAI updates and annual report, approval of “Advice from students to faculty members at the University of Minnesota on protecting academic integrity”]

## **STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (SAIC) MINUTES**

**APRIL 8, 2015**

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

**PRESENT:** Jennifer Goodnough (Chair), Ragui Assaad, Mark Bultmann, Kimberly Clarke, Sharon Dzik, Stacy Ingraham, Corrie Marion, LeAnn Snow.

**REGRETS:** Arthur Erdman, Kacey Gregerson, April Kim, Susan LoRusso.

**GUESTS:** Jessica Kuecker Grotjohn.

### **1. OSCAI UPDATES AND ANNUAL REPORT**

Jessica Kuecker Grotjohn said that the first three students to participate in the AIM program will attend a session on April 17. She will be able to provide an update to the committee in the fall.

Sharon Dzik then walked the committee through the 2013-14 annual report, noting the following statistics:

- 509 scholastic dishonesty reports last year, up from 303 the previous academic year
- More men are reported for scholastic dishonesty, but they are also reported more for all conduct violations
- Most reported group for scholastic dishonesty is seniors; likely reasons are that classes are smaller and more accountable at this level
- International students are one-third of the reported students, much more than the percentage of the overall student population that they represent
- Graduate students who did their undergraduate at international institutions are the most at risk because little to no time is spent educating them on the expectation of U.S. higher education
- Use of sanctioning guidelines seems to have had an impact on fewer students being sanctioned with an ‘F’ in the course
- 213 reports have already been filed this year

Q: What accounts for the increase in scholastic dishonesty reports?

A: Likely it is due to an increase in faculty awareness after the survey OSCAI did on reporting behaviors. The semester email from the Provost also promotes more reports. Lastly the new online system makes reporting easier, especially for faculty who are reporting many students for the same violation in the same course.

Q: How many violations for the same student were seen last year?

A: That is still a small percentage of the total number of students reported.

Q: Why do students request a hearing?

A: There is no one reason, but it is usually because they think that they were not treated fairly by the faculty or that the sanction is too severe.

Q: Which students are required to meet with OSCAI? What happens if they do not attend a meeting?

A: International students, students with multiple violations, and all students involved in unauthorized collaborations are required to meet. If they do not, a hold is placed on their record so that they cannot receive a transcript or register.

Members made the following comments:

- ‘Negligent plagiarism’ is a new term/offense being discussed by groups at other institutions as a way to increase faculty reporting
- Survey of professional schools should be redone to see if the conclusions from the last survey are still applicable
- Group work is still very hard for faculty to check
- There can be faculty bias towards international students
- More training is needed for international students before and after they arrive
- Making sure that international student know what they are being charged with and what the outcome is means that sometimes documents need to be translated or a translator is required at a meeting or hearing
- Reports should be broken down into the type of scholastic dishonesty violation – plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized collaboration, etc
- Due to issues with Turnitin.com and Moodle last fall, there might be fewer reports

## **2. APPROVAL OF “ADVICE FROM STUDENTS TO FACULTY MEMBERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ON PROTECTING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY”**

Jennifer Goodnough thanked everyone for their suggestions for improving the document

Members made the following comments:

- Two outside links dealing with online courses should be added under ‘Additional Resources’
- Citation is needed for McCabe survey
- ‘University of Minnesota’ should be removed from the title

With no other changes, the document was approved.

## **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

Members suggested that the committee review the concept of self-plagiarism and work on an updated professional school survey next year. With no further business, Jennifer Goodnough thanked the members for their service this year and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert  
University Senate