

[In these minutes: OSCAI Annual Report, Academic Integrity information at New Faculty Orientation, Academic Integrity information for first-year students, McCabe survey report]

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (SAIC)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013

[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: Dana Davis (Chair), Kimberly Clarke, Bradley Conley, Sharon Dzik, Arthur Erdman, Jennifer Goodnough, Kacey Gregerson, Stacy Ingraham, Susan LoRusso, Corrie Marion, LeAnn Snow.

REGRETS: Trevor Buttermore, Laura Coffin Koch, Loren Kosloske.

GUESTS: Arlene Carney, Beth Lindgren Clark, Jessica Kuecker Grotjohn.

1. OSCAI UPDATES

Sharon Dzik noted that the survey of scholastic dishonesty reporting has finished and they had a very good response rate. She just received a 64 page report, so she will plan to share information with the committee at a spring semester meeting.

2. OSCAI ANNUAL REPORT

Sharon Dzik discussed the 2012-13 annual report from OSCAI. She noted that there were 877 total cases reported, of which 303 were scholastic dishonesty. The scholastic dishonesty number is a slight decrease from the previous year. Of the 303 cases reported, 42 percent were for international students and only 4 percent had a prior incident of scholastic dishonesty. Reports of scholastic dishonesty increased for males, seniors, and students with high GPAs. Of the total cases reported, only six students requested hearings.

Members made the following comments:

- Does OSCAI identify if a transfer student is accused of scholastic dishonesty? (OSCAI does not track this information but could for the next report.)
- Most faculty believe that freshmen are the most reported for scholastic dishonesty and then reports decline as students near graduation. This is not the case as upperclassmen are in smaller classes in which scholastic dishonesty may be easier to identify.
- Faculty are also less likely to dismiss a small scholastic dishonesty violation for an upperclassmen.

3. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY INFORMATION AT NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION

Arlene Carney, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, joined the meeting to discuss new faculty exposure to the concept of scholastic dishonesty during orientation. She stated that New Faculty Orientation (NFO) is held annually and the invitees are anyone with a faculty appointment, which includes regular, contract, and visiting faculty. No one is required to attend, but attendees are paid a stipend as the orientation takes place before 9-month faculty contracts begin. 2013 was the eighth year this orientation was held and there were 65 participants.

The orientation is a three-day event. A unit on student scholastic dishonesty and how faculty interact with students is covered on the first day. Sharon Dzik has participated for a few years. Previously, most sessions were lectures with time for questions at the end. This year the session involved case studies and policies. Participants were asked to think about the situation first before a discussion was held. Sharon Dzik was then present to answer questions.

Additionally, Vice Provost Carney noted that she publishes a new faculty newsletter each month in which she can reintroduce topics from the orientation. She focuses on one topic per newsletter and provides links to offices and policies. A previous one was a reminder for mid-term alerts. She suggested that the next newsletter could be a review of plagiarism, OSCAI information, and University policies.

Sharon Dzik noted that an email will be sent soon from the Provost to all faculty reminding them of the policy requiring reporting.

Vice Provost Carney agreed that this email is helpful as many faculty are still hesitant about reporting, think that they need to go it alone, and feel guilty about harming students. She also addresses this issue during the year-long new chairs program. The mini-retreat in January focuses on front-line needs that chairs need to make sure that their faculty know.

Q: Many faculty were never able to attend NFO but could still benefit from the information in the newsletter. Would it be possible to send the newsletter to all faculty?

A: This is an option but she would need to coordinate with Undergraduate Education to make sure that information is not being duplicated. She would also need to determine if probationary faculty and instructional P&A should be included as well. She could also track feedback if it sent to all instructors.

Q: For what period do new faculty receive the newsletter?

A: For their first year.

A member suggested that faculty receive the newsletter for longer than just one year.

4. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY INFORMATION FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Beth Lindgren Clark, Director of Orientation and First-Year Programs, joined the meeting to discuss student exposure to the concept of scholastic dishonesty during summer orientation and Welcome Week. 13,000 students and 5,000 parents participate each summer of which 5500 are first-year students for Welcome Week and 2700 are incoming transfer students.

Orientation is required for first-year and transfer students. All orientations start with a required pre-orientation survey to collect data on the students which is used to enhance content, such as time management, covered during orientation and Welcome Week. She would be open to adding a few questions on scholastic dishonesty. First-year students have a two-day orientation by college with an overnight stay on campus while transfer students have one day of college advising.

A program review took place two years ago. One piece of feedback was that instead of handing each student a bag stuffed with information from different areas at the University, a seamless piece be created. For this fall, the Gold Book was created. Each student receives a paper copy and it is also available on the web at: ofyp.umn.edu/publications This book brought together 70

different materials and can be updated each year. The response from students and parents this year was very positive.

One section of the Gold Book deals with academics and touches on scholastic dishonesty in several ways. This content is also covered in the college-specific day during orientation. This year a typical first day of class was conducted for all students.

Q: How much time is spent on the topic of scholastic dishonesty or academic integrity?

A: Less than an hour which includes a three-minute video. Orientation leaders focus on transitioning to college, which includes academic integrity, syllabi, and differences from high school.

Q: What is the orientation for transfer students?

A: The University was the first institution to have an on-line module for undergrad transfer students in addition to the one day on-campus and it is required by all colleges. The orientation covers University life, academics, and Moodle content.

Q: What is the orientation for international students?

A: They work with International Student and Scholarly Services (ISSS). There is a monthly meeting for an international enrollment committee to discuss content for this group and a separate newsletter is sent to these students in June and July. Welcome Week now includes pauses in the programming to allow international students to gather and share their experiences.

Beth Lindgren Clark said that they also utilize social media to which most students are subscribed. It is not a complete strategy but it allows for timely dissemination of information. They also produce a monthly newsletter but she is not sure how many students read it.

Members made the following comments:

- It is important to include instructors of first-year courses in these conversations to continue the message
- Learning section should be first in the Gold Book

5. REVIEW OF MCCABE SURVEY REPORT

As most members had not had a chance to read the full report, it was agreed that Wednesday, November 20, 2013, would be set as the deadline for sending any changes before the report is finalized and available for distribution.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Dana Davis thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate