

[In these minutes: Academic Integrity at orientation, Office for Student Academic Integrity]

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (SAIC)

MINUTES

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2001

1:00 - 3:00

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

PRESENT: Dorothy Anderson (Interim Chair), Mark Bellcourt, Steve Brandt, Shawn Curley, Linda Ellinger, Yev Garif, Betty Hackett, Robert Pepin, Daniel Svedarsky, Carston Wagner.

REGRETS: Amber Benning, Leslie Meek, Angelita Reyes.

GUESTS: LeeAnn Melin, Christen Christopherson.

1. VIDEO

The committee watched a video entitled “Promote and Protect Academic Integrity on Your Campus” distributed by the University of Vermont.

2. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AT ORIENTATION

Leann Melin, Director of New Student Programs, and Christen Christopherson, from General College, discussed University orientation programs with the committee by noting that there are several different types: new student, transfer student, graduate student, and parent. New Student Programs works with each of the colleges to develop new student and transfer student orientation programs.

Leann Melin noted that orientation occurs in June and July, during which time freshmen are still thinking as a high school student. To see the differences, orientation offers a session on being successful in college. This session has facilitated discussions on the differences between high school and college as well as what students need to do to succeed, such as time management. Another session is also held on making the grade and the orientation leaders perform a skit on cheating.

Following several New Student Program sessions, students spend two hours at a college meeting. At this time, collegiate student service professionals and peer advisors work with the students. Christen Christopherson noted that General College distributes a workbook to each student. The workbook highlights fundamental values of educating by noting that students are encouraged to

share, but that information must be accurate and credit must be given. General College also has several case studies that allow freshmen to debate and discuss the concepts introduced in the workbook. As follow-up to the General College session, each faculty and advisor has a copy of the workbook and refers students to it throughout the year.

Leann Melin then noted that the professional schools handle their own orientation without help from New Student Programs, while the Graduate School has their students attend a one hour session on guarding their academic integrity. Transfer students attend a one-day orientation and then further information is provided by the college.

She then turned to a handout on academic integrity, noting that colleges like it and use it during their own sessions. Members said that colleges should be reminded to provide this information to transfer students in the information folder they receive, as well as graduate students and parents so that everyone is receiving the same material.

Members then stated that one-size will not fit every college, as each has different concerns. An example is that IT and CEHD stress collaboration more than other colleges.

Committee members noted that they are pleased with what progress has been made so far, but would like to see orientation follow-up sessions scheduled to see what students retain. A discussion was then held on what the purpose of a pledge would be, just a signed form or a statement of accountability?

Members then voted to approve the orientation material on academic integrity, and the motion was approved.

3. OFFICE FOR STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (OSAI)

Betty Hackett distributed a sheet of objectives for OSAI and discussed the following topics that OSAI will be working on this summer and into next year.

Syllabus

She said that the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) is currently discussing course syllabi and making them mandatory instead of just a recommendation. The two committees might consider jointly developing a policy, or possibly a proto-type syllabus, including academic integrity information, which faculty could download from a website and then modify for their course.

Student Surveys

She then discussed a strategy for collecting student feedback on academic integrity. Several University programs are being targeted: Honors programs, Residential College, and SEAM. The survey should look at what the high school culture was for each student, as well as the effects of what they have been introduced to since coming to college. Institutional Research and Reporting will be utilized to create a targeted, web-based student survey.

Logo

Betty Hackett distributed a sheet of proposed OSAI logos for marketing and campaigning. Members discussed the four designs and decided that the one in the upper left corner was the cleanest design and would catch a person's eye. It was suggested that the star be changed to have five points, with each point representing one of the five fundamental values from the academic integrity sheet.

Language for Dissemination

Committee members said that they liked the orientation handout on academic integrity. With orientation being covered, it was noted that this information should also be distributed in freshmen seminars, in student and faculty handbooks, and in college advising offices so that students see the same message repeatedly. Betty Hackett noted that much of the information for her office will be put on a web site which is still to be developed.

Faculty

Betty Hackett noted that faculty need to be an ally in any effort that the University makes. To make this work though, faculty need to be assured that the administration is backing-up their efforts. The reporting structure also needs to be simple and not timing-consuming for faculty. New faculty must be made aware of the University's efforts in this area. Links should also be placed on the faculty one-stop site to the OSAI site once it is completed. Committee members noted that faculty are tentative about what can happen to them, so perhaps the General Counsel can provide a statement on litigation and counter myths with reality

Reporting

Betty Hackett said that college offices are being asked to forward all reports to OSAI, but that there is resistance to reporting because of the possibility of inconsistencies. Several issues to still be addressed are whether student service offices will still store academic integrity records and whether reporting will be web-based since computer systems can also be cracked.

With no further business, Dorothy Anderson thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate