

[In these minutes: ADT Report, OSAI Website, Overview of Scholastic Dishonesty violations for 2000-01]

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (SAIC)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2001

10:00 – 11:30

238A MORRILL HALL

[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 (Chair), Mark Bellcourt, Shawn Curley, Betty Hackett, Laura Coffin Koch, Nicholas Velkov.

REGRETS: Steve Brandt, Robert Pepin, Daniel Svedarsky Carston Wagner.

ABSENT: Amber Benning, Yev Garif, Angelita Reyes.

1. ACADEMY FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS (ADT) REPORT

Laura Coffin Koch reported that this item was just being addressed at the recent ADT conference when she was leaving. She noted the Dan Svedarsky might have more information at the next SAIC meeting.

2. OSAI WEBSITE

Betty Hackett noted that the OSAI website was now available and asked the members for their feedback:

- There is no disability access for the site; alternate text errors were received and tables used for layouts were unreadable by text-readers
- Website used attractive colors and layouts
- Site is easy to access, not too text-based, and well-organized
- All links worked
- FAQ page for faculty should refer to and link to the Clayton report earlier on the page
- Guidelines should be provided for faculty to give to students on understanding group work, on the appropriateness of working together and apart, as well as appropriate ways to collaborate
- Syllabus language should be included on faculty page
- Case studies are a useful example since it helps students answer their own questions
- Notation should be added that case studies were created by 'caught' students

- Cultural issues should be incorporated into the case studies
- Information should be provided on how students cheat on different assignments
- More student content is needed, including information from orientation
- Fundamental values introduced at orientation should be included on the site
- Links should be included for other resources
- Collegiate honor codes should be linked as examples
- Freshmen seminars and First Year Experience should be linked
- Web managers group should be targeted to create a link

Q: Is it possible to know if someone has linked to the OSAI website?

A: It is courtesy to inform a department that a link is being provided, but it is not required. OSAI will be encouraging collegiate units to provide a link so that information is not duplicated.

Betty Hackett noted that counters will be placed on the pages to count the number of users per session. Any changes will not be done until the end of the semester. She then said that a half-page flyer will be sent to 5000 faculty and instructors, including deans, directors, and department heads, informing them about the active website, the new office, reporting guidelines, and providing information on visits to colleges. This will be followed by an e-mail close to finals.

Lastly, she noted that she met with the coordinate campus vice chancellors to discuss academic integrity. She encouraged them to look at the orientation and learning center materials as examples and not to wait for the Twin Cities campus to start an honor code, since a code might be easier on their smaller campuses. Also discussed was the possibility of including a question on academic integrity on the student evaluations.

3. OVERVIEW OF SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY VIOLATIONS FOR 2000-01

Betty Hackett distributed two handouts. One which includes some confidential information, and noted that the committee could use it during the discussion, but would need to return them prior to leaving, and one as a cover sheet that members could keep.

She then said that this table only represents cases that were reported to OSAI, and that it is possible that more cases were handled within a college or department without being reported. This year there was an increase in scholastic dishonesty cases, but she said that there is no specific reason for the increase. The handout also shows that General College shows the most reported cases, but that it is doing a great job identifying scholastic dishonesty.

Report details include:

- 26% women, which is higher than other conduct code violations
- The number of seniors reported was surprising
- Of the 11 charged seniors, 8 were caught in courses outside their college; research supports this since seniors are trying to fulfill their remaining liberal education requirements

- Two 4.0 GPA students were charged, but they were both PSOE students
- Age and year were at the time of offense
- College noted is the one that the student is in
- GPA is prior to the 'F'
- Nature listed is straight from the faculty, if one was listed
- Only one violation entailed buying an entire paper from a website

Q: Was there an attempt to standardize penalties?

A: The penalty seems to depend on the work that is being cheated on, which is hard information to get from faculty since it varies by class. Faculty also have ultimate authority over penalties and have a range of opportunities.

Q: What happens to repeat offenders?

A: Only some students were previously reported for other offenses. This information, though, is not listed on the handout.

Q: Why are the General College numbers higher, more reporting or the population of the college?

A: General College students are under scrutiny because of the basketball scandal. The college needs to show that it is watching for academic integrity, and has also started many initiatives to support academic integrity in the hope that the numbers will decrease once the population is well-informed.

Q: Is cheating affected by class size?

A: This data does not show it, but it appears that there is more cheating in large classes and on take-home assignments.

Q: Is there more cheating in some areas because of cultural diversity or less-prepared students?

A: It is possible, although the research shows that more cheating occurs in business and engineering majors. It would be easier to target educational materials if the University knew why certain situations increase cheating.

The committee then discussed awarding a penalty 'F' versus a regular 'F' since many students who cheat are already failing a class, so the penalty for cheating is not outwardly present on their transcript.

A member then asked if the handout could be sorted by nature and penalty, along with information on class size.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Dorothy Anderson said that a laundry list of information was discussed at the October meeting, and asked Betty Hackett for an update on some of these efforts.

Betty Hackett provided the following update:

- Media coverage is still hard to receive
- Update needed on Turnitin.com
- Meeting being scheduled on new faculty orientation and a syllabus wizard
- Welcome CD is being revised, at which time academic integrity information can be added
- Leadership minor students might be targeted for academic integrity issues
- Withdrawal is being looked at in terms of preventing a student withdrawing from a class while a scholastic dishonesty charge is pending
- Faculty repercussions for charging scholastic dishonesty needs to be addressed

She then asked if members would be interested in accompanying her to meetings with departments when the role of OSAI and SAIC are being explained. Members expressed willingness to participate in outreach efforts.

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

Becky Hippert
University Senate