

[In these minutes: Academic Integrity and Admissions, OSAI Updates, Turnitin.com Update]

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (SAIC)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2002

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, Yev Garif, Laura Coffin Koch, Robert Pepin, Daniel Svedarsky, Nicholas Velkov.

REGRETS: Steve Brandt, Shawn Curley, Betty Hackett, Carston Wagner.

GUESTS: Linda Ellinger.

1. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND ADMISSIONS

Dorothy Anderson reminded committee members that Wayne Sigler, Director of Admissions for the Twin Cities, had met with the committee at the February meeting. During that discussion, he had said that there was currently nothing in writing regarding student academic integrity during the admissions process, but he would be open to a suggestion from the committee. She then distributed language that appears in the Gopher Guide regarding student academic integrity and suggested that some of this language might be able to be used by the Admissions Office.

Committee members then made the following comments:

- It is possible that student academic integrity language is already present in the Crookston materials
- Admissions booklet is already lengthy; whatever is added cannot be too long
- Gopher Guide is written for a different audience and with a different tone although the concept would work for Admissions
- Section should be included at the beginning of the Admission's booklet
- Intent would be to convince applicants not to provide false information and tell them what the University expects
- Section should be a few lines with a reference to the OSAI website
- Positive tone
- Section should also be included on the web applications
- Admissions' Office on all campuses should be asked to include language

The committee then discussed the actual wording of the section. Dorothy Anderson said that she would write a first draft, and then circulate it to the committee for review before sending to the directors.

2. OSAI UPDATES

Since Betty Hackett could not attend, Laura Coffin Koch provided an update on results from the CIRP study that the University participates in. She said that incoming students are surveyed every other year. The University's results are compared to the national norms. Additionally, the University can submit 10-20 other questions to get at issues relevant to this campus.

This year, the University asked two questions on academic integrity. The first question asked students to what extent cheating was a problem in high school, to which 85% of students responded that there was some level of the problem. The second question asked students how important it is for the University to protect academic integrity and hold cheaters accountable, to which 90% felt that it was important or very important.

Committee members made the following comments:

- Students define cheating differently; many do not think that copying off websites is cheating
- Statistics seem to indicate that more men think that cheating is a problem
- Fewer females think that anything should be done
- Survey also asks questions on family, religion, studying, classes, exams, and remediation

Laura Coffin Koch said that Ohio State requires students to supply an ID number so that the institution can identify students earlier who may need help. Their results are comparable to other institutions.

A follow-up survey is also administered at the end of the first year to see what changes have taken place. The University also administers its own survey in years that it does not participate in the CIRP study. The participants from this study are also contacted at the end of their third year to see what changes have taken place.

3. TURNITIN.COM UPDATE

Linda Ellinger said that, in short, people are not using the software. As of February 21, 47 people were registered, of which 12 had registered spring semester. She then distributed a report following its use fall semester.

She said that many of the faculty who used the software used it because they thought that a student was cheating, and this was confirmed by Turnitin.com and the surveys. Students in these classes were not surveyed. Of the faculty comments, most noted that many disciplines and paper sources are not covered by the software.

The sentiment was that if use continued at this level and the cost increased, then the service would be discontinued.

Dorothy Anderson said that one faculty member in Natural Resources was using the software and noted several concerns: students do not get to see the results and use the software as a spot check, and the software does not know the authorship for plagiarized sources.

Linda Ellinger said that use at other institutions is strictly for large, freshmen classes dealing with generic topics, specifically to catch students plagiarizing from web sources versus books and journals.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Q: A discussion has been held in General College regarding students who are disruptive in class. Should these students be reported the same way as academic integrity violations?

A: OSAI gets involved in these cases since many of the same resources are utilized. A policy might need to be developed to deal with class disruptions, including cell phones and pagers, and to make sure that reports are centralized.

Q: What progress has the committee made on major issues noted last spring?

A: OSAI has used this group as an advisory committee for its initiatives and its working on policy and procedure revisions. Last spring the committee decided not to institute an honor pledge, but has been working on assessing what is currently being done and what needs to be in place before an honor pledge is instituted. Students still need to be made aware of the issue, through notations on syllabi and discussions in class.

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

Becky Hippert
University Senate