

[In these minutes: OSAI Statistics, OSAI Updates, Information on Faculty, student and TA survey]

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (SAIC)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2002

9:30 – 11:00

300 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, Abu Jalal, Laura Coffin Koch, Dan Oberg, Robert Pepin, David Roberts, Daniel Svedarsky.

REGRETS: Mickey Trent, Carston Wagner.

ABSENT: Elizabeth McCann.

GUESTS: Kathy Skelton.

1. OSAI STATISTICS FROM LAST YEAR

Betty Hackett began by distributing a breakdown of the 87 reported academic integrity cases for 2001-02. This number is an increase from 30 cases in 99-00 and 60 cases in 00-01. She said that her office also provided consultation on a number of other cases. While the cut-off date each year is June 30, she said that several cases were received late. Improving prompt reporting will be an area of focus during this year.

Other statistics she shared with the committee included:

- Exams are being resubmitted as mis-grading but it is actually students trying to cheat
- 3 cases are pending formal review
- OSAI is just beginning to see repeat offenders
- 40% of plagiarism is from online sources
- Statistics do not reflect the effort that faculty are making to talk with students
- Outcomes are similar for similar offenses
- Cheating for seniors is especially troublesome because they are graduating with that mentality and a degree
- Older students have a negative view of the University and feel that they are 'owed' something

Q: Do repeat offenders have a set of characteristics?

A: Currently repeat offenders are usually older students and mostly women.

Betty Hackett said that last year her office handled 443 total cases, had 239 consultations, reviewed 210 closed cases, completed 197 student record verifications, and 108 miscellaneous discussions. This year, her office has already handled 146 cases since July 1.

Q: In light of present events, how can faculty guarantee their safety?

A: Faculty should call her office early in the process. The University has a threat assessment team to evaluate the situation and faculty can be coached to maintain boundaries while holding students accountable. Teaching is still a safe profession, but faculty need to be able to communicate with the students.

Q: Is there any restorative justice in the process?

A: Students cannot be forced to be on public display for their actions, although sometimes students do mention these types of options. Restorative justice is more useful in non-academic offense to serve as an educational tool.

Q: Do colleges receive reports on their classes?

A: Yes. College representatives receive copies of case information, even for students who are not enrolled in that college.

2. OSAI UPDATES

Betty Hackett provided the following updates:

- She has talked with Kathy Brown about increased funding for more staff in OSAI to handle the increased case load
- She will be in Duluth next Wednesday to talk about academic integrity with three groups
- There was a program on academic integrity on TV last week and articles have been appearing in the *Chronicle*
- Student Conduct Code review has been completed; Item #1 has been reworded and a new section has been added on disruptive classroom behavior

Q: Would students sharing old test files be a violation of the Code?

A: No. This is not referred to in the text.

3. INFORMATION ON FACULTY, STUDENT, AND TA SURVEY

Betty Hackett said that last spring the committee considered surveying three groups on campus using a survey developed by Dr. Donald McCabe. She has talked with Ron Huesman in Institutional Research and Reporting regarding administering the survey this spring. There are several other projects already slated, but there might still be room in the schedule. The survey would be web-based. She would like a sub-set of SAIC to meet with Dr. McCabe regarding making the survey Minnesota specific. The goal of the survey would be to use it as a base for work towards an honor code.

Professor Anderson said that in order to get to upper division students, the survey would be used first to guide a revised approach to focus groups as the second step.

Committee members made the following comments:

- Survey would provide a baseline for students and faculty at the University
- Survey would show any differences at the University from other institutions
- Survey would show what problems exist and make students aware of efforts underway

Q: Would the survey replicate information that is already known?

A: The survey would collect the view of the University's population, which might be different from other institutions. It will also guide future actions so that resources are not put into the wrong initiatives.

Q: What is the cost?

A: There is a nominal fee for use because Dr. McCabe uses the data for his research.

Q: What other institutions have been surveyed and what have been the results?

A: The survey has been used at many small and large institutions. Some of the results have been published in articles, which can be sent to the committee.

It was decided that Professor Anderson, Betty Hackett, and Professor Trent would meet with Dr. McCabe regarding refinements to his survey for use here.

4.. OTHER BUSINESS

Professor Anderson said that she has not seen anything regarding the statement that SAIC proposed to be included in the admissions booklet. She will have Wayne Sigler attend the December meeting and discuss this with the committee.

She then said that Natural Resources has had an honor code since 1915, and this year is its four-year review. Substantial changes will be suggested to deal with changing times. The new dean is also an advocate for academic integrity. She anticipates that the revised code will be sent to the collegiate scholastic committee in December.

Q; Are students required to sign this code?

A: There is a place for signatures on exam booklets, but only half of the faculty require this. Current students now want to require a signed statement upon admittance to the college.

A committee members then said that he was not aware how much attention academic integrity was receiving and the amount of work that is required behind-the-scenes. Many students are still not receiving the message since much depends on what students receive in their classes. Students do need academic integrity to be reinforced before they enter the professional world.

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

Becky Hippert
University Senate