

[In these minutes: Recap of 2002-03 business, Agenda items for 2003-04, OSAI Update, Subcommittee Service]

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (SAIC)

MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

2:30 – 4:00 PM

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: Micky Trent (Chair), Mark Bellcourt, Shawn Curley, Marilyn Grave, Robert Pepin, Tracy Smith.

REGRETS: Dorothy Anderson, Laura Coffin Koch.

ABSENT: Thomas McRoberts.

GUESTS: Linda Ellinger (for Laura Coffin Koch), Kathy Skelton.

1. RECAP OF 2002-03 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Micky Trent stated that one of the main initiatives of the committee last year was the discussion and design of a student and faculty survey on student academic integrity. A subcommittee was formed to review the survey being used by Donald McCabe from Rutgers, and modify it for University use. The intent was to issue the survey this November, but the administration is doing another survey and does not want anything else sent during this period.

The subcommittee will continue to work on finalizing IRB approval and population selection for the participants. Faculty and students will be selected from honor code and non-honor code schools, as well as educational level.

Q: Will the survey be used at the coordinate campuses?

A: At this time, the survey will only be administered on the Twin Cities campus but the coordinate campuses could talk to Mr. McCabe about administering the survey on their campuses as well. The survey will provide the Twin Cities with a baseline for national comparison to other similar institutions. Results from the survey will then allow for a more University-specific survey in the future.

Q: What is the focus of the survey?

A: It will gauge student and faculty awareness and understanding of academic integrity.

Micky Trent said that other items from last year included: the visibility of student academic integrity policies at orientation, student handbooks, and acceptance letters; consultation with the center for Teaching and Learning regarding new faculty training; and learning what materials the Libraries are providing to students on plagiarism.

Members made the following comments:

- Student academic integrity was mentioned three times during orientation and again at convocation
- Does a question in the orientation survey deal with student academic integrity?

2. AGENDA ITEMS FOR 2003-04

Members made the following suggestions for agenda items for this year:

- Examining the judicial process within colleges for academic integrity cases
- Deciding whether to continue with Turnitin.com – there are currently only 45 users on campus, but these people really like the service the program provides, but is \$5500 per year too much money for such low usage? Some students do not like the program because their paper becomes part of the collective whole.
- Determining focus groups areas after seeing the results of the survey

3. OSAI UPDATE

Tracy Smith reminded members that Betty Hackett retired in June and she was filling the director position on an interim basis, on loan from the Office of the General Counsel, until a permanent replacement is found. Once the director position is hired, a new associate director position will be created to work on outreach and programming efforts.

She then noted that the rest of the staff has remained intact. Amber Burnette, her assistant, keeps the office and student academic integrity matters functioning efficiently and well. She has been with the office for many years, and Tracy has come to rely on her institutional memory.

The Office for Student Academic Integrity (OSAI) has been seeing the same types of cases, cheating, plagiarism, falsifying records, and classroom misconduct. There is value in centralized reporting since now students are being tagged as repeat offenders and can be caught when cheating in different colleges. While she noted that it is rewarding to deal with students on a personal basis, she noted that she has also issued six suspensions or expulsions for flagrant violations.

Tracy Smith then noted that last spring the Regents approved a new Student Conduct Code

which became effective July 1. Most of the Code remained similar, with some anti-riot charges from the 1970s being consolidated. Scholastic dishonesty remains the first violation, which reflect the value that the University places on this issue. A new violation, for classroom misconduct, was added as the second violation. She noted that ads were run in the Minnesota Daily the week before and the first week of classes to remind students of the changes, as well as an email to colleges reminding them of the changes. She then distributed the ad to the members.

Lastly, she said that her office is working on updating the web site.

A member noted that it is hard to report violations by email since no people are listed on the web site. Names, email addresses, and phone numbers would be very helpful for faculty. Another member noted that a secure web application for reporting violations might be very useful.

Tracy Smith said that she would like the web site to be more user-friendly, but will leave some decisions to the new director.

In terms of workload, OSAI handled 184 cases last year, which is more than double of the past year. Of the cases, 70 involved seniors while other charges were against older students. The GPA range was also very broad. She noted that there was more parental involvement this summer than expected, but not all was positive.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE SERVICE

Micky Trent said that the Advisory Committee on Athletics (ACA) was creating a subcommittee on Student-Athlete Welfare and they would like someone from this committee to serve on that subcommittee to keep both groups informed. After reading the charge, members still had several questions. Micky Trent said that she would get more information, and send an email asking for volunteers.

With no further business, Micky Trent thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate