

SAIC MINUTES

[In these minutes: CLA withdrawal policy, OSCAI annual report]

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (SAIC)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007

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

PRESENT:

Tom Shield (Chair), Lisa Anderson, Sarah Angerman, Manami Bhattacharya, Sharon Dzik, Laura Coffin Koch, Randy Moore, Eric Watkins, Erin West.

REGRETS:

Linda Jones, Micky Trent.

ABSENT:

Amanda Kossak.

GUESTS:

Amy Barsness, Meaghan Thul.

1. SAIC UPDATES

Tom Shield updated the committee on the immutable 'F' which was discussed with both the Council of Undergraduate Deans (CUD) and the Educational Policy Committee (SCEP). CUD understood the need

for this grade and uniformly approved its use with the notation that a student had to be notified in these matters.

Since this is a change to the grading policy, the option was taken to SCEP which did not support the change. While they understood the need for this type of change they did not want an option that would affect students for the rest of their lives. They then discussed a removable 'F' grade with a required ethics course.

2. DISCUSSION OF EXTENDING CLA WITHDRAWAL POLICY TO ALL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Meaghan Thul from the CLA Student Services Office joined the committee to talk about their withdrawal policy which prohibits a student from withdrawing from a class while a scholastic dishonesty matter is pending. If a student withdraws from a class and then her office discovers that a matter is pending, the policy allows the college to re-enroll the student. In these instances she communicates directly with the student but has never received a response. This policy is used maybe two times each semester.

Q: How does she know to re-enroll a student?

A: Instructors can contact her while the incident is pending; other times it is at the end of the semester when the instructor tries to enter the final grade and realizes that the student withdrew.

Q: If a student is re-enrolled after the course ends, what is the basis for the grade?

A: Options are available if a student withdraws, but this has not been asked for from any students. Some coursework might be missed, and the grade could be figured without it. The ultimate authority rests with the student not to withdraw in violation of the policy.

Q: Is this policy noted on syllabi?

A: It is not required.

Q: How soon are cases filed?

A: Some faculty are quick while others are not. OSCAI tries to quickly respond in these matters.

Sharon Dzik noted that she has heard from faculty in other colleges who wish that this option was available to them.

Members made the following comments:

Check and balance is important between faculty and advisors
Not permitting a withdrawal should only be an option if the student will receive an 'F' in the course
Could faculty inform the Registrar to not allow a withdrawal for a particular student?
Policy should be consistent across campus

Faculty should meet with students to explain

Members noted that a consistent policy should be recommended to SCEP.

3. OSCAI ANNUAL REPORT

Sharon Dzik said that the annual report from her office is currently not released. She met yesterday with Jerry Rinehart, Tom Shield, Tina Falkner, and Susan McKinney about the current practice. It was decided that interested parties should contact OSCAI to request the report. She then walked members through parts of the report.

4. OSCAI UPDATES

Sharon Dzik introduced Amy Barsness as the new Assistant Director in her office.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Tom Shield thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert

University Senate