

[In these minutes: Report from Rochester on Academic Integrity Process and Procedure, Report from Crookston on Academic Integrity Process and Procedure, OSCAI Updates, Committee membership, Review academic integrity data from new student survey]

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (SAIC)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[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: Jennifer Goodnough (Chair), Ragui Assaad, Sharon Dzik, Kacey Gregerson, Stacy Ingraham, April Kim, Laura Coffin Koch, Susan LoRusso, Corrie Marion, LeAnn Snow, Caitlin Wahouske.

REGRETS: Kimberly Clarke, Arthur Erdman, April Kim.

GUESTS: Jessica Kuecker Grotjohn, Vice Chancellor Barbara Keinath, Ken Myers, Parry Telander.

1. REPORT FROM ROCHESTER ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PROCESS AND PROCEDURE

Parry Telander, Interim Director for Student Development, joined the meeting to discuss how scholastic dishonesty is handled at Rochester. Since December 2013 he has served as the student conduct officer for non-housing matters. He meets with faculty at their fall and spring retreats to discuss academic integrity, define the process, and proactively educate faculty on reporting when they are worried about jeopardizing student careers.

He works with faculty throughout the year to help them decide what to do and what an appropriate sanction would be. He then sends the student an email to outline the faculty member's decision. Rochester does not allow a student accused of scholastic dishonesty to withdraw from the course but this has not happened yet.

For students, academic integrity is worked into the first-year classes as part of the curriculum and is then touched on again in the second year. All curriculum in the Bachelor of Science degrees is writing-enriched and there are two writing lab courses in the first year. Students work with the Writing Center to help them identify when their work may be considered plagiarism.

Q: Does the Twin Cities prohibit all students who are accused of scholastic dishonesty to not withdraw from the course?

A: No. The official policy is that a student cannot withdraw only if they are receiving an 'F' or 'N' due to scholastic dishonesty. However, the College of Biological Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Science and Engineering do not permit any student accused of scholastic dishonesty to withdraw. There is nothing in the system to prevent a student from withdrawing, but then they can be re-enrolled.

Q: At Rochester, who does an accused student meet with regarding the allegation?

A: The student has already met with the faculty member before receiving the email, so then they can meet with him. He noted that there have been no hearings yet for scholastic dishonesty.

Jennifer Goodnough noted that some faculty at Morris did not want to report students either, but the main office serves as a repository for students who might have multiple violations. Filing a report also provides students with their due process rights.

Members agreed that faculty should be encouraged to report all incidents, even if they are minor, to prevent repeat violations.

2. REPORT FROM CROOKSTON ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PROCESS AND PROCEDURE

Barbara Keinath, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Ken Myers, Registrar, joined the meeting to discuss the scholastic dishonesty process at Crookston. Vice Chancellor Keinath said that her 16 months on campus have been a learning experience in this area. The process is that a faculty member talks with the student first and then submits a form which is sent to her and Ken Myers. The student then receives an email. Plagiarism is the most common violation.

She then noted that Crookston has moved to a new database for tracking incidents. Previously there was no systematic way to track incidents per students and therefore there was no automatic escalation for second and third offenses. Crookston is now developing an academic integrity procedure.

Ken Meyers stated that there has been an increase in the number of incidents due to faculty being encouraged to submit a report and meetings with departments to discuss academic integrity as it relates to their subject matter.

Vice Chancellor Keinath noted that faculty want to have conversations on how to handle these cases and assigning sanctions as a way to share what they are doing so they are being fair to all students. The campus also works with freshmen and international students to make sure that they are aware of the issue. Focus is also placed on working as part of a team. Campus has also tried to minimize high stakes papers and tests. Faculty are encouraged to build papers incrementally to stop an issue before a final paper is turned in.

Q: Is Maxient used for scholastic dishonesty reports?

A: Originally it was used just by residential life but it is being expanded to include scholastic dishonesty reports.

Q: How many cases were reported last year?

A: There were 19 cases reported for just over 2000 students, of which half are on campus and half are online.

Members made the following comments:

- Educational process is needed
- Faculty should talk to their classes about intellectual property and how their own work is respected
- Some students just look for an easy way out
- Students need to have conversations about what it means to help a friend since students value loyalty over cheating
- Faculty need to promote personal responsibility
- Personal assignments also reduce chances to cheat

3. OSCAI UPDATES

Jessica Kuecker Grotjohn noted that 15 people completed the form to participate in the new academic integrity program although they are still looking for students to serve as community members. Training and a mock meeting will be held in December so that the program can start in the spring.

4. DISCUSS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Members then discussed expanding the membership of the committee to allow more system campus and student participants.

5. REVIEW ACADEMIC INTEGRITY DATA FROM NEW STUDENT SURVEY

Laura Coffin Koch said that the pre-orientation survey taken by incoming Twin Cities students includes questions on academic integrity. Members reviewed the data and made the following comments:

- Academic integrity discussions should be a part of all first-year experience courses
- Students are overwhelmed during Welcome Week so the place for these discussions is in the classroom
- Are these the correct questions to be asking?

6. OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Jennifer Goodnough thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate