

[In these minutes: Students using work in two classes, Graduate student academic dishonesty reporting, Immutable 'F' grade, Withdrawal issue]

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (SAIC)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 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, Sharon Dzik, Laura Coffin Koch, Eric Watkins, Erin West.

REGRETS: Linda Jones, Micky Trent.

ABSENT: Amanda Kossak, Randy Moore.

GUESTS: Kathy Skelton.

1. DISCUSS STUDENTS USING WORK IN TWO CLASSES

Sharon Dzik said that first item on the student conduct code, scholastic dishonesty, does not discuss students using work in two classes, but she receives calls from many faculty members who feel that this should be included as a form of students plagiarizing themselves. She would like feedback from the committee on this topic.

Members made the following comments:

- The definition of plagiarism means copying from someone else without citing the source, not copying from yourself
- Faculty dislike this practice among students
- According to the Duluth Academic Integrity policy, this is a violation of the policy unless there is faculty approval
- For computer science students, code reuse is common and students are taught to do it, so this offense seems restricted to papers
- A policy of this type would be too big for the entire Twin Cities campus
- The syllabus is a contract with the student, so any issues of reuse should be addressed there
- Social Work has addressed this topic as a department, which seems more appropriate than campus-wide
- Language on reuse of student work should be included on the OSCAI website for faculty use on their syllabus

2. DISCUSS PROCESS FOR GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC DISHONESTY REPORTING

Tom Shield referred to the undergraduate reporting process, noting that an obvious change will be 'DUGS' to 'DGS', but he will revise the process for the next meeting. He asked if members had any additional comments.

A member noted that the Graduate School should be involved in the reporting phase of the process, and that cross-college situations are a possibility.

Sharon Dzik said that information needs to be disseminated to the DUGS about their new role in the process. Tom Shield suggested an email from the Provost to the deans and department heads. Sharon said that she would bring a dissemination plan to the next meeting for committee review.

3. FINALIZE IMMUTABLE 'F' GRADE AND WITHDRAWAL ISSUE TO SCEP

Tom Shield distributed the most recent draft of the immutable 'F.' Members discussed bracketing of grades and the 'N' grade not affecting the GPA, noting that the background section is not very clear on differentiating these issues. Tom Shield said that he would revise the language and send it to members via email for final review.

He then turned to a discussion of a CLA policy that does not permit a student to withdraw from a class when a violation of scholastic dishonesty is pending. Should this policy be recommended to SCEP for application to all Twin Cities undergraduates?

Members noted that they would like to see the CLA policy and know how it is applied before making any recommendation to SCEP. Tom Shield said that he would add this topic to next month's agenda.

4. OSAI UPDATE

Sharon Dzik reported that a new Assistant Director has been hired. With a new person in the office, they will be able to catch up on items from the summer and possibly develop a reporting form for conduct code items that are not scholastic dishonesty. Lastly, she will have annual report statistics to discuss at the next meeting, as well as a discussion with the committee about public dissemination of some of the statistics.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

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

Becky Hippert
University Senate