

SAIC MINUTES

[In these minutes: OSCAI annual reporting and its release, background checks, questions for undergraduate deans, academic reporting process for graduate students]

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (SAIC)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008

[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, Linda Jones, Laura Coffin Koch, Eric Watkins.

REGRETS:

Amanda Kossak, Randy Moore, Micky Trent, Erin West.

1. REVISED OSCAI ANNUAL REPORT

The committee discussed the report formatting as well as the function of the report – does it report what the office does or violations of the Student Conduct Code?

2. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE PUBLIC RELEASE OF ANNUAL REPORT

Members noted that once a consistent format is finalized, the report should be listed on the web. When Deans are sent the annual summary of reports to OSCAI from their college, they should also receive a link to the report.

Q: Are requests made for this information?

A: Yes, from the media.

Members made the following comments:

What are other institutions doing?
University Relations should be informed before this is posted on the web
Public statistics might pressure faculty to make more reports

This will also inform students of their due process rights

3. DISCUSSION OF BACKGROUND CHECKS

Tom Shield said that this issue was briefly discussed at the last meeting. There is a sense that there is no consistent answer provided on background checks and that some college offices are performing the function without checking with OSCAI. Should there be a requirement that all background checks must be seen by OSCAI and that this office will provide the official University response?

Q: Do students know that background checks are performed?

A: Some do but better education is required. A handout is being printed now with information on this issue. Students are also told about the checks when they meet with OSCAI staff.

Members suggested that this issue be discussed with CUD and CGD to determine what is needed.

4. POSSIBLE QUESTIONS TO ASK UNDERGRADUATE DEANS ABOUT REPORTING SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Sharon Dzik said that she is in the process of setting up meetings with the associate deans in all the undergraduate colleges. She distributed a set of questions to members and then asked if they should be sent to the deans in advance or just brought to the meetings.

Members made the following comments:

Written policy on reporting should be sent in advance
Ask deans who is the person responsible for academic integrity on his or her staff
Most answers will be provided in the context of the conversation
Since most work is done in the departments, question should be raised how these cases are brought to the college level
Do not assume that the college knows about OSCAI
There is likely someone else besides the associate dean who deals with these issues

Ask if there is another college group with which she should meet

5. ACADEMIC REPORTING PROCESS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Tom Shield distributed a process, which is the same as for the undergraduates with a few title changes and a reference to only one college. He asked members to review the process and bring comments to the May meeting.

Sharon Dzik said that she would like to be more engaged with the programs. One way to do this is to require all graduate students to meet with her for every offense, which is a different requirement than for undergraduate students.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

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

Becky Hippert

University Senate