

Student Academic Integrity Committee (SAIC)
March 3, 2021
Minutes of the Meeting

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 reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration, or the Board of Regents.

[**In these minutes:** College Review - College of Pharmacy; SAIC Letter to Provost Croson; Other Business]

PRESENT: Kenneth Leopold (chair), Susan O'Conner-Von, Bibhudutta Panda, Peter Haeg, Tracene Marshall, Florina Grigore, Hannah Holmberg, Caroline Bender, Sharon Dzik, Jessica Kuecker Grotjohn, Ilene Alexander

REGRETS: None

ABSENT: Zornitsa Keremidchieva, Daniela Orza, Sara Johnson, Emily Kurtz

GUESTS: Jeannine Conway, associate dean of professional education, College of Pharmacy

OTHERS: Katie Jackson, Katie Koopmeiners

Chair Ken Leopold welcomed the committee, and members introduced themselves.

1. College Review - College of Pharmacy - Leopold introduced Jeannine Conway, associate dean of professional education, College of Pharmacy (CoP), to provide a review of the CoP's efforts to uphold academic integrity. Conway presented a [slide deck](#) and highlights were as follows:

- The CoP has an honor code that establishes guidelines for students as well as an honor council to allow for better student accountability. The council has since expanded to include students from the Duluth campus.
- The number of investigations and hearings on academic misconduct vary per year, but the CoP did see a bit of an uptick in cases in the fall semester of 2020.
- The CoP handles a number of "higher stakes" exams and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, those exams were administered in-person with closed notes and books. During the spring and fall of 2020, those exams were required to be shifted to a computer based system.
- During fall 2020 exams, the college began to notice a higher uptick in cases of academic misconduct. This caused the faculty to move towards Zoom live proctoring and changing other delivery methods of exams, including restricting backwards navigation. This is the ability to hop around the exam and answer questions in a different order. While the pharmacist licensure exam restricts backward navigation, there was a lot of push back from students.

- Online exams via “Examsoft” have not been ideal and challenges have resulted, including the prevalence of the possible illicit use of Chegg. Technical solutions can’t always solve the cultural problem of integrity.
- Looking forward, the CoP is looking to possibly create more faculty involvement in the honor council as well as integrating more ideas related to professionalism.

Sharon Dzik asked when a student is accused of academic misconduct, who brings the charges to the honor council and if students know who their accusers are. Conway replied that the honor council hears the case on an anonymous basis and if the student or faculty are not satisfied with the results, the case can then be brought before the Student Progression Committee, which involves a much more formal process.

Leopold asked for a little more context about the makeup of the student body and Conway said that there are roughly 110 students on the Twin Cities campus and 55 students in Duluth. She added that students tend to be very competitive and need to start thinking more about their professionalism.

Dzik further asked if the CoP has specialized messaging regarding academic integrity in their syllabi. Conway shared that they utilize standard language from the University while also outlining their honor code. Dzik asked if they would consider addressing more specific misconduct problems, like the use of Chegg, in syllabi and Conway replied that those conversations are ongoing.

Leopold expressed concern over students having 24 hours to complete an exam. Conway agreed which was one of the main reasons they decided to move forward with disabling backwards navigation. Conway acknowledged that it has been difficult to find a balance between maintaining academic integrity and student flexibility. Leopold added that it would likely be helpful to student members of the honor council to have institutional history on misconduct cases and their outcomes.

2. SAIC Letter to Provost Croson - Leopold led a conversation regarding a letter that had been prepared for Executive Vice President and Provost Rachel Croson regarding the notification of new academic integrity modules on Canvas. Leopold stated that it was his intent to send the letter soon with a recommendation that Croson work with associate deans and vice chancellors of undergraduate education to incorporate these modules into each college’s first year student experiences. Leopold asked for further feedback on the letter.

Jessica Kuecker Grotjohn stated that in conversations with Vice Provost Bob McMaster, there could be assumptions that students should already know this information. However, the reality of the situation is the exact opposite, where students do not all have the same definitions of academic integrity and misconduct. Katie Jackson indicated her support for the letter and its effort but noted that many students feel overwhelmed by modules during this time.

Dzik, too, supported the letter and its intent and emphasized that this is only one tool for changing culture on campus. Classroom conversations are important as well but those things

obviously can't happen everyday. She also added that the module itself is undergoing updates after accounting for student and other user feedback and believes there will be a companion piece for instructors to use to facilitate discussion.

(NOTE: After the meeting concluded, [the letter was slightly edited](#) and approved by the committee via an electronic vote.)

3. Other Business - Leopold informed the committee that the efforts to put together a panel of students was coming together and the panel would be scheduled for the evening of March 16, 2021. He noted that all committee members will be invited and encouraged to attend if they are able.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chris Kwapick
University Senate Office