

Minutes for Meeting on Feb. 10, 2016 Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) 2015-2016

Members Present:

Anil Shetty – OSI
Bonnie Weston – OSI
Lori Critz – Library
Jeff Davis – ECE (Chair)
Jake Soper – Chem & BioChem
(Chair Student Honor Committee)

Joel Sokol – IsyE
Mary Elizabeth Herndon – U. Student
Adam Greenstein – U. Student
James Hite – G. Student
Paul Foster – FEB Liaison

Room: Klaus 3100

I. Review of minutes from the last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

II. Current state of plagiarism software in the CS department (OSI)

- a. Should there be a different sanction model for auto-cheating programs?

There was no consensus on this issue, but the committee in general will continue to consider this as we look to the current sanction model.

- b. Should there be a minimum computer program length before these auto-cheating programs can be used?

There was some concern that the algorithms that are used to identify cheating were different in different sections of a CS class AND it is unclear how these algorithms work. If the assignment gives the same variable names and some functions ahead of time, the committee was worried about the number of false positives that could be occurring.

- c. Is the current sanction model too harsh with auto-plagiarism programs?

If the students use a faculty conference resolution, they would receive a zero and would be put on warning. If they decide to go through OSI there is a possibility that they would be put on disciplinary probation. In either case, their next offense could result in suspension for a semester from Georgia Tech. If there are a large number of false positive in these computer plagiarism programs, then this puts considerable stress on students -- especially if they feel like they were wrongly accused by a computer or they accidentally have similar code to other students.

d. OSI will provide number of cheating cases from the CS department

There was a question as to the number of cheating cases that the CS department submits every year. In the future, we might have a representative from the CS department come to the committee to discuss the algorithms that they use and give some examples of cheating cases they have found. Also we would like them to address the issue of false positive accusations.

III. Merging of the Student Honor Committee and the Academic Integrity Committee

It has been put forth by the executive board that the Student Honor Committee should be merged into the Academic Integrity Committee. This is due to the low number of cases that the Student Honor Committee is reviewing because many of the cases are handled by OSI. However, with the relatively new sanction model the Student Honor Committee has started to see more cases (5 cases since August).

The AIC committee proposed that we delay the merging for one year to see if the number of cases that the SHC sees might increase; thereby, justifying the existence of two separate committees.