

**Academic Integrity Committee
Meeting Notes**

February 8, 2008

Present were Robert Kirkman (chair), Nael McCarty, Ericka McGarity (OSI), Tom Michaels, Carol Senf (Chair of Student Honor Committee), Brian Tyson (undegraduate student), Michael Warwick (Student Honor Advisory Council); Jeff Empie (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering) as guest.

1. From HAC: Survey

HAC will be conducting a survey of students at Tech, in the interest of both research and teaching: finding out what students know about the Honor Code while at the same time informing them about the Honor Code.

The HAC representative asked for advice on the questions themselves, the structure of the survey, and the means of providing immediate feedback to students.

The survey itself and the data from the last time the survey was administered are to be posted to the T-Square workspace of the Integrity Committee.

2. From OSI: Faculty Guide draft

The basic idea here is that less is more: the paper guide should be a very brief checklist, each point of which will correspond to a page or set of pages on the OSI website, once it is revised.

The draft is to be posted to the T-Square worksite for comments.

3. Plagiarism in Lab Reports

Jeff Empie attended the meeting as a guest, and asked for advice on handling the appearance of widespread plagiarism in lab reports. In particular, he asked about the advisability of developing or purchasing software or online services for comparing reports against a database.

In the discussion, it emerged that one faculty colleague in CS had developed her own system for comparing student work and accumulating a database, which might be adapted to other contexts.

The question also emerged of whether this system should be promulgated across campus, but by the end we reached a tentative consensus that this would be premature. Whatever Dr. Empie implements in his labs might serve as a test-case for future decisions about the development and use of such systems.