

Academic Integrity Committee

Meeting Notes

November 2, 2007

Present were Eric Barnhart (Exec. Board liaison), Jess Chandler (graduate student), Sarah Graham (OSI), Robert Kirkman (Public Policy; committee chair), Nael McCarty (Biology), Ericka McGarity (OSI), Eli Riddle (HAC), Carol Senf (Student Honor Committee Chair), Brian Tyson.

1. Review of last year's work: sanctioning guidelines

The committee agreed on one minor change of wording in the sanctioning guidelines, to eliminate any ambiguity in cases where an assignment is worth precisely 10% or 30% of the final grade. Instead of "more than 30%", substitute "30% or more"; instead of "less than 10%", substitute "10% or less". Ericka will incorporate these changes into the document and distribute.

The committee also agreed unanimously that the guidelines should be posted online.

2. Overview of this year's work:

We raised again an old familiar issue: what can be done to increase faculty understanding of and participation in the integrity process, and what can be done to improve the quality of that participation?

The committee agreed to work this year on developing a simple, one-page faculty guide to the process and to begin the process of disseminating it around campus.

The faculty guide will have three main sections:

1. What faculty should do to lay the groundwork in every class they teach.
 - a. what should be in the syllabus [Riddle will provide existing HAC checklist] – includes integrity, grading policies, etc. This serves two purposes: prevents dishonesty, and makes case stronger if dishonesty is detected – reduces chances of going to hearing.
 - b. what should be taught in class, regarding integrity
 - c. other measures can foster integrity (and prevent dishonesty)
2. What faculty should do when they suspect academic dishonesty
 - a. before reporting to OSI (including importance of confidentiality, not taking it personally, etc.) – [Kirkman will work on this]
 - b. when reporting to OSI [McGarity/OSI will provide this]
3. How faculty should follow through
 - a. understanding guidelines, their basis
 - b. if the case goes to hearing, prepare for and participate in the hearing [Senf/Student Honor Committee will attend to this section as it develops]
 - c. circle back, consider refinements to

Note: the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 30.