A Snapshot of Academic Integrity Procedures at Penn State

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What Impacts Academic Integrity?

1. Institutional policies
2. Faculty attitudes & actions
3. Basic preventive measures
4. Student peer attitudes & actions

Faculty Senate Academic Integrity Policy 49-20

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Consistent with this expectation, the University’s Code of Conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students’ dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts.

Academic Integrity Policy & Procedures

 Enhance the role of faculty
 Provide due process for students
 Take advantage of ‘teachable moments’
 Establish fair and consistent procedures and sanctions
 Increase consequences for repeat offenders
 ACUE G-9 Academic Integrity Procedure

Academic Dishonesty

• 10.01 Copying
• 10.02 Plagiarizing
• 10.03 Unauthorized test possession, purchase, supplying
• 10.04 Ghosting
• 10.06 Altering Tests
• 10.07 Fabrication of information or citations
• 10.08 Facilitating academic dishonesty by others
• 10.09 Submitting work previously used without permission
• 10.11 Unauthorized collaboration
• 10.12 Unauthorized use of study aids
• 10.99 Other

Brief History

• Prior to 2000-01 academic year, cases managed solely by Judicial Affairs
• Total cases for three years prior (1997-2000) - 27
• New procedures established to increase participation of Faculty and Colleges - began Fall 2000
• 2000-01 cases = 51, 2001-02 cases = 268
Unique Management

- Faculty have been assigned as designees of the Office of Judicial Affairs. Because Academic Integrity Violations are code of conduct violations certain procedures must be in place in order to change a student’s grade as result of a violation.

THE PROCESS In a Nut Shell

1) Questionable behavior occurs
2) Faculty member discusses allegation with student
3) Faculty member determines if violation has occurred
4a) If a violation has not occurred, no case is created
4b) If faculty member believes violation did occur, Academic Integrity form is completed by the faculty member and provided to the student
5) Student returns form to Faculty member with decision to accept or contest
6) The completed form is submitted to the College Dean’s office

7. When the form is received from the faculty member, Dean’s office staff will contact Judicial Affairs to see if the student has academic dishonesty priors.

8. When the student has no academic dishonesty priors and has accepted the academic charge and sanction assigned by the faculty member, the case is considered completed and closed and sent to Judicial Affairs for recordkeeping.

When A Student Contests

If the student chooses to contest, the Academic Integrity committee will provide a review of the case. If the AI committee, through the process find the student responsible, they may assign the academic sanction that they determine is appropriate.

An AI committee that is responding to a case where the student contested at the initial stage will not be made aware of a student’s prior academic misconduct until they have determined responsibility in the pending case.
**Discipline Sanctions**

- When a faculty member wishes for a disciplinary sanction to be assigned, this request would need to be reviewed by the AI committee. It is only with the AI committee’s support that a Disciplinary sanction be requested.

- The AI Committee will determine the level of disciplinary sanction appropriate and then send the documentation along with the request to Judicial Affairs. Common disciplinary sanctions used are Disciplinary Warning, Disciplinary Probation, and XF.

**Important Points of Utilizing Discipline Sanctions**

- Only when a student receives Disciplinary sanctions will an AI case be reported out as a part of a student’s disciplinary record.

- A student will have the right to request a sanction review for the disciplinary sanction only – all academic sanctions stand as assigned by the faculty or AI Committee.

**Academic Integrity Cases (all campuses)**

[Graph showing Academic Integrity Cases System Wide for 2004/2005 to 2006/2007 with data points for each year.]

**Most Common Types of Violations**


**Class Standing and Academic Dishonesty**

[Bar chart for Class Standing for 2008-2009 with categories: Other (2nd & Prior), Graduate, 1st, 3rd, 2nd, 1st.]

**May a student drop a course if there is an allegation of academic dishonesty?**

- Once the process begins, the only way a student may drop the course is if in the end they are found not-responsible.

- A student who is known to have dropped the course on their own, may have the course re-instated.

- EXCEPTION: Trauma Drop of semester when violation occurred
When Behaviors Go Beyond Academic Integrity

- On occasion a student’s actions will involve behaviors that are also other violations of the code of conduct. A conversation with the Judicial Affair’s staff or Designee could assist in determining the best action.

Some Additional Considerations and Issues Still Under Discussion

- Would there be a benefit to one form used system wide by faculty?
- Could there be further University discussion regarding the interpretation of behaviors?
- Should all AI committees be trained in a consistent fashion?
- AI committees assigning a grade
- Withdrawal from class following a violation
- Reporting to external agencies

Questions about the Process?

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