

Academic Integrity Committee
Annual Report to the Faculty Senate
April 9, 2012

Mission

The Academic Integrity Committee advocates for, and raises awareness of, academic integrity issues at CCSU; the responsibility for acting with integrity remains up to each member of the university. The Committee reports to the Faculty Senate about the status of the Academic Misconduct Policy. The Committee generates educational resources, promotes awareness regarding academic misconduct, and may propose amendments to the policy.

Activities & Accomplishments

The Academic Integrity Committee began the 2011-2012 year with the following goals:

- Review the *Disciplinary Procedures for Academic Misconduct* and determine if there are areas that need to be clarified
- Explore the usefulness of *SafeAssign* anti-plagiarism software as a substitute for *TurnItIn*
- Identify, develop and implement new strategies to prevent academic misconduct and to promote use of the academic misconduct policy
- Determine the extent and types of academic misconduct currently seen on campus and the faculty experiences in using the current academic misconduct policy

The Committee has worked on all of these goals this past year. Summaries of the main accomplishments are provided below:

- Based on problems that were observed since the previous revision, the committee revised the *Disciplinary Procedures for Academic Misconduct*, which were submitted to and approved by the Faculty Senate on December 5, 2011. These revisions primarily served to establish a time limit on when a student may file an appeal to the department Chair after being notified of academic sanctions by the instructor and time limit for the student to appeal the decision of the Department Chair. We also modified the description of the role of the Office of Student Conduct, allowing appeals to be resolved by mutual consent by all parties without having to convene a Faculty Hearing Board, which has been found to work best in actual practice
- After the software license to the *TurnItIn* antiplagiarism software was not renewed for the 2011-2012 year, the committee was asked by the provost to explore usefulness of the alternative antiplagiarism software *SafeAssign* which is bundled with the current and future versions of Blackboard. The committee tested the new software and met with the IT department about technical issues, and reported to the provost on pros and cons of the new *SafeAssign*. The committee reported that the new software performed adequately in its role to detect and prevent plagiarism, and we now provide a link to instructions for *SafeAssign* on our webpage.
- The Committee has started to identify a set of preventative measures that faculty can use to help deter students from engaging in academic misconduct, as well as strategies that faculty can employ to promote a climate of integrity in their classrooms (www.ccsu.edu/AcademicIntegrity) and strives to make it a central location for all

documents and resources related to academic integrity.

- In the last few years this committee has modified the process of reporting academic misconduct in an attempt to make it easier for faculty to report and track events, and has sought to increase awareness of the academic misconduct policy. In an effort to assess the impact of these changes we are currently preparing a new survey of the faculty to measure faculty knowledge of and experience with the new policy. This survey will also ask about the current perception of the amount and types of academic misconduct that are currently being seen on campus. We are planning to administer the survey in a couple of weeks so that we can examine the data during our last meeting in May. We plan to use this data to define the goals of the committee for the next year.

Academic Misconduct Reporting

Table 1 provides a summary of the Academic Misconduct Reports that have been submitted to the Office of Student Conduct for the current academic year (through April 5, 2012). In total, there have been 35 reports filed. This is an increase of the 25 reports that were filled last year. There were 8 faculty Hearing boards requested by faculty to consider disciplinary sanctions, and 5 students have received probation, 2 students have received suspensions, but no students have been expelled. To date, there have been no student appeals.

Table 1. Academic Misconduct Reports and Outcome 2010-2011

Sanctions:			
Sanction Type:	By Faculty:	By Board:	# of Sanctions:
Reduced Grade	5		5
Assignment Revision	3		3
"F" for assignment	8		8
"F" for course	8		8
Probation		5	5
Suspension		2	2
Expulsion			0
Academic Integrity Wksp.	10	6	16
No Sanction	1		1
Total:	35	13	48
Faculty Board Hearings:			
Hearing type:	# of Hearings:		
Student Appeals	0		
Faculty Request	8		
Total:	8		

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Jackson, Chair, Academic Integrity Committee