Academic Integrity at Missouri S&T

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S&T Values

• Lifelong Success
• Creativity
• Integrity
• Sustainability
• Partnerships
• Inclusion
Accreditation entities emphasize integrity and professional ethics

- Higher Learning Commission
- ABET
- AACSB
- ACS
Higher Learning Commission

- **Criterion Two** -- Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
  Includes a comprehensive review of financial, academic, personnel and auxiliary functions; and seeks to ensure that S&T establishes and follows policies for fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty, and staff.
HLC -- continued

- Criterion Two (continued) -- The institution has and enforces policies on academic honesty and integrity.

See Collected Rules: 200.010 Standard of Conduct
Academic Dishonesty defined:

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Sabotage
Cheating

Includes but is not limited to:

• Use of any unauthorized assistance …
• Dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized …
• Acquisition or possession without permission of tests or academic material …
• Knowingly providing any unauthorized assistance …
Plagiarism

Includes but is not limited to:

• Use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another without fully crediting the author …

• Unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person …

• Unacknowledged use of original work/material produced through collaboration without release in writing by collaborators …
Sabotage

Includes but is not limited to the unauthorized interference with, modification of, or destruction of the work or intellectual property of another member of the University community.
Undergraduate Academic Integrity
Student Perceptions of Academic Honesty

What was the culture of academic honesty in their high schools?

• Cheating more common than at S&T.
• Teachers encouraged a collaborative learning atmosphere which contributed significantly to copying homework assignments which is where most of the cheating occurred.
What is the Culture of Academic Honesty at S&T?

Students have a divided view on this question:

- “everyone cheats” “people cheat left and right” “easily more than 75%” “a very real issue”
- “most students try to avoid cheating at all costs” “Students look down on cheating.”
How Do Students Cheat at S&T?

• copy homework
• use file systems in fraternities and sororities
• use of mobile devices during tests
• use cheat sheets or note cards in laps and on the floor
• look at another student’s exam
• buy solutions manuals with their texts
Why Do Students Cheat at S&T?

- “stresses” in students’ lives and “time constraints” because of heavy workload in classes
- challenging courses
- lazy students
- lazy professors
- tends to happen in classes not in a student’s major
Article in the Chronicle from about a year ago: August 28, 2016

http://www.chronicle.com/article/The-New-Cheating-Economy/237587
Academic Dishonesty Cases, 2009-2012

- 2009—42
- 2010—46
- 2011—55
- 2012—71
FS 2013/SP 2014
Alleged Academic Dishonesty
57 reported cases
• 33 written warning on record
• 9 warnings plus additional sanctions (training modules, etc)
• 4 placed on probation
• 1 suspended
FS 2014/SP 2015
Alleged Academic Dishonesty
40 reported cases

- Exam misconduct: 35%
- Plagiarism: 52%
- Assignment misconduct: 13%
• 27 written warning on record
• 3 warnings + additional
• 2 probation
FS 2015/SP 2016
Alleged Academic Dishonesty
74 reported cases

- Exam misconduct: 39%
- Assignment misconduct: 35%
- Plagiarism: 26%
• 70 written warnings
• 3 probation
Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

- Assignment misconduct: 38%
- Plagiarism: 35%
- Exam misconduct: 27%

34 Reported Cases
• 30 warning
• 4 probation

• Started experimenting with an additional sanction → student must write and hand deliver an apology to instructor
What is the procedure (per General Counsel guidance on due process)?

- Instructors assess the student work and assign a grade accordingly on that piece of work – grade of 0, or 50% off, or whatever is deemed appropriate.
- Instructors cannot expel the student from class, give an F for the class …
- Instructors are encouraged to refer the case to the appropriate Vice Provost for possibility of further sanctions and a campus record of the incident (undergraduate or graduate).
Vice Provost Options

Student meets with VP and informal disposition is proposed. Possible sanctions include:

• Warning
• Probation
• Suspension
• Expulsion

Student can accept the informal disposition or request a formal hearing
Student Conduct Hearing

- Very rare in academic integrity cases, but we had one a couple of years ago
- Formal and time-consuming and rigorous
- Outcome can be appealed to the Chancellor
Per guidance from General Counsel:

The outcome of a specific informal disposition or a formal hearing is confidential
Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty & Student Grievance Cases

11 graduate academic dishonesty cases since Summer 2016:
  - 8 cheating cases
  - 3 plagiarism cases

7 student grievances addressed
Disposition

• Academic
  – Instructor/Faculty
    • i.e. grade assignment

• Administrative
  – Dr. Allada, Primary Administrative Officer (PAO)
    • Research the allegation
      – Meet with instructor/faculty and student
      – Consult with Office of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
      – Consult with UM Legal (if the case warrants it necessary)
      – CRR 200.020-Rules of Procedures in Student Conduct Matters
    • Formal or Informal Disposition
Formal vs Informal

- Formal
  - Student Conduct Committee created
    - Formal Hearing
      » Committee will determine sanctions

- Informal
  - Statement of Purpose
  - Informal Disposition
    - Sanction Options
      » Ethical Exploration Module
      » Probation
      » Online Research Ethics Course (CITI)
      » Knowledge Acquisition and Written Reflection Essay
Academic Conduct Coordinator Software (CoCo)

- Secured Training in CoCo for:
  - Inputting data
  - Tracking cases
  - Reporting data
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