

Report of the Academic Integrity Task Force

Spring Semester, 2010

Student Policy and Procedures

The Task Force met weekly to study the current policy and interview various people about it: Jack Berkley (Chair of the committee that drafted the current policy), Jim Bowser (former Chair of the Academic Integrity Review Board), Lisa Meyer (Interim Coordinator for Judicial Affairs), Dave Herman (Vice President for Academic Affairs), and Katie Dvorak (Student Association representative). We also solicited input from Departments via email and College Chairs meetings.

Based on all of this input and our discussions we redrafted the policy and procedures (attached). We are also recommending that an electronic form be used for reporting violations of student academic integrity (draft attached) to make this easier for faculty and department chairs, and to encourage faculty to report all violations.

What we learned in our research pointed to a need for better education of students and faculty at SUNY Fredonia on the issues surrounding academic integrity. Many students, particularly in their earlier years, seem not to understand what are and are not violations. Some faculty seem to be reluctant to report violations and questions about legal protection.

Academic Integrity Policy/Procedures for Faculty and Staff

There was much to do to learn about and revise the student policy/procedures so the Task Force was not able to also fully address faculty and staff policy/procedures in one semester. We did collect several examples from various public and private colleges and universities. These are on the ANGEL group. SUNY Plattsburgh has a good policy/procedures which could be adapted to SUNY Fredonia. This is the only SUNY comprehensive school for which we could find such a policy/procedures. Buffalo State College may also have one but our request for it was not answered. SUNY Potsdam and SUNY New Paltz have scientific misconduct policies/procedures. We also learned that SUNY Central has an Ethics Committee currently working to make recommendations on, among other ethics issues, "Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity".

We recommend that, after the SUNY Ethics Committee has completed its work, another task force be created to formulate a policy for SUNY Fredonia. Some members of the Spring 2010 Task Force would be willing to serve on this next task force.