

STUDENT CONDUCT COMMITTEE
Summary Action Report
2007-2008

The Student Conduct Committee received one charge from the University Senate, (**Senate Document Number 07-08-20**), and action on an appeal relating to a plagiarism case in violation of the University's Code of Academic Integrity.

Appeal

Dr. John Zacker presented a substantial report at the Student Conduct Committee meeting on December 10, 2007, relating to an appeal by a student on plagiarism and the decision of the Honor Council. He stated the arguments from the student to be considered by this Committee are: 1) That he received an unfair hearing due to procedural error; 2) That the decision of the honor board was arbitrary and capricious and, 3) That the sanction is grossly disproportionate to the offense.

Voting on Appeal Arguments

1. That a procedural error occurred and the student received an unfair hearing – The majority of the committee agreed that this was not the case.
2. That the decision of the honor board was arbitrary and capricious - The committee unanimously agreed that this was not the case.
3. That the sanction itself is grossly disproportionate and capricious to the Offense - The majority of the committee agreed that this was the case. The student had been found “responsible” for another count of academic dishonesty in the same semester and this was considered an aggravating factor by the original board. However, the majority of the committee felt that since the two offenses occurred so close together in time and the student did not have the opportunity to learn from his first before committing second, that both offenses should be considered essentially concurrent.

The Committee agreed upon a sanction of “suspension withheld”, and ‘XF’ on the student transcript, monitoring of the student by the Office of Student Conduct until his graduation, and a community service requirement. Specifically, the student must undergo training with the Office of Student Conduct so that he may conduct at least two informational sessions on academic integrity for the University's Athletic Department. The student must also provide hard-copy documentation that he completed the online academic integrity seminar (as he claims) and the community service requirement as described above in order for the reduced sanction to be upheld. If the student fails to meet any of these criteria, the sanction will default to the original recommendation of a one-semester suspension. It is the hope of the Committee that the student will learn more about the consequences of his actions from this reduced sanction and that he will not commit any further acts of academic dishonesty.

Proposal on Discipline and Calls for Emergency Medical Services (Senate Document Number 07-08-20)

At the meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee on October 25, 2007, Dr. William Montgomery, Chair, University Senate, presented a “Good Samaritan” proposal from Anstacia Cosner. Since this proposal might eventuate in a change in the Code of Student Conduct it fell under the purview of the Student Conduct Committee. The report on Ms. Cosner’s proposal was due on or before Wednesday, February 13, 2008 from the Student Conduct Committee.

The Student Conduct Committee (SCC) did extensive research on this subject by reading articles and surveys on medical amnesty policies and soliciting opinions on Medical amnesty policies (MAP) from the members of the University Community who would be knowledgeable about the current practices on campus and the possible impacts of such a change in policy. The SCC held a three-hour meeting on January 24, 2008 to discuss the wealth of information gathered and analyzed.

Action

1. It was moved that the Student Conduct Committee not recommend a change to the Code of Student Conduct at this time. The motion was carried unanimously.
2. It was moved that the Student Conduct Committee recommend that the Senate Executive Committee: ascertain which recommendations of the Alcohol Task Force have been implemented to date. (See attached report dated February 12, 2008 to William Montgomery from Boden Sandstrom, Chair, Student Conduct Committee.

It was moved that the Student Conduct Committee recommend that the Senate Executive Committee appoint a Task Force to implement recommendations of this Committee in a timely fashion and to gather further data related to the usefulness of medical amnesty on this campus. The motion was unanimously carried.

Attachment