Academic Integrity: Moving Beyond the Policies

Office of the Dean of Students
Student Judicial Services
The Problem....

“Cheating is contagious....”

- Don Rettinger (May 2009) *Research in Higher Education*
  - Direct knowledge of others’ cheating was the biggest predictor of cheating

The Locked Door Analogy

- “Why We Lie” (May 2012) *Wall Street Journal*
  - 1% of people will be dishonest, try to pick a lock and steal
  - 1% of people will be honest and never steal
  - 98% of people might be tempted to steal if a door has no lock
Cultural Symbol

Student Honor Code

As a student at the University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values and uphold academic integrity
Best Practices: Setting the Foundation

• Consistency
  • How is Academic Integrity discussed in the syllabus and assignment expectations?
  • Is it revisited throughout the semester?
  • How does AI relate to subject?
  • Be a Broken Record- TAs and Professors sending the same message

Best Practices: Setting the Foundation

• Low-Tech Solutions
  • Emphasize AI, examples of unacceptable behavior, and potential consequences. (Novotney, 2011)

• Have students read and/or sign the Honor Code before test/assignments. (Novotney, 2011)
Best Practices: Setting the Foundation

• Don’t Assume students...
  • Know citation expectations and required style (MLA, APA, Chicago Style)
    • [Purdue Owl - Avoiding Plagiarism](#)
  • Have developed a writing style
    • IDEA: Require multiple submissions of written assignments
• Understand Test Day policies
  • Are electronic devices allowed?
If you spot an issue in the moment...

- If possible, ask another proctor if they also see what you see.
- You can ask a student to move during an exam.
- You can ask to see material & papers
  - Do not search a backpack or a person.
- Allow student to finish exam, even if you suspect academic dishonesty.
  - Review test with those sitting near student.
- Document what you observed.
# SJS By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Total Academic Integrity Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015 (as of 1/15/15)</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Addressing Academic Dishonesty

• Document the situation with as much detail as possible.

• Two options to resolve:
  1. Faculty Disposition or
  2. Disciplinary Referral
Meeting with the Student (Optional)

• Ask student to meet with you in your office
• Meeting with student
  – Ask student if they know why they are there
  – Show the student the evidence
  – Ask the student what happened
  – Address the action, not the person
    • Good students make bad choices
    • Learning moment for the student
Meeting with the Student (Optional)

- Walk through the faculty disposition and student’s rights
- If applicable, sign the faculty disposition with the student and forward paperwork to SJS
- If student does not respond to you or requests for SJS to review the case, forward evidence to our office

- Resources:
  - SJS: SSB 4.104, 512-471-2841
  - Student Ombuds: SSB G1.404, 512-471-3825
Resolution by SJS

- Student meets with the SJS administrator

- The SJS administrator determines if the evidence supports a finding of a violation

- If yes, student is presented an administrative disposition. From here, the student has three options: Administrative Disposition, Appeal of Administrative Disposition, and Hearing

- If standard of evidence is not met, SJS will follow up with the faculty member
Potential Academic Sanctions

• What is in your syllabus? What have you done in the past?
  – SJS role: ensure fairness and consistency

• Most common: Zero credit on an assignment, project, or test
  – Other options:
    • Reduced credit on an assignment, project, or test
    • Reduced grade in the course
    • Grade of “F” in the course

• Suspension from the University (SJS only – 2+ academic violations)
• Expulsion from the University (SJS only – 3+ academic violations)
Questions?
Resources

Office of the Dean of Students - Student Judicial Services
Student Services Building (SSB) 4.104
512-471-2841
sjs@austin.utexas.edu

http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs

Institutional Rules
http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/