

Newsletter

Spring 2011 – Summer 2011

Message from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR)

Spring is here! This means the end to another academic year is fast approaching. Before we can enjoy the summer and relax by the beach, we need to focus and finish the quarter with as few casualties as possible. By this, we mean make ethical decisions and follow the Student Code of Conduct. In this newsletter you will find information about Winter 2011 reported conduct violations and outcomes, what to expect next academic year, and more.

Our Mission

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities administers the Student Code of Conduct to foster a culture of truth and integrity in the campus community. The office is committed to the principles of fairness, honesty, and students' due process rights. Through effective outreach and educational initiatives, the office will contribute to students' personal and academic success.

Our Vision

By 2015 the OSRR will be recognized as a valuable campus resource in educating the campus about students' rights and responsibilities. Also, the office will contribute significantly to developing students' ethical framework by providing workshops and educational opportunities to enhance student learning.

Our Staff

Roopa Davé-Lakhani, Director

Rubicelia (Ruby) Alvarez, Administrative Assistant

OSRR Workshops

Avoiding Plagiarism by Understanding Citations

Managing the Writing Process

Student + Time Management = Productivity

Acadegrity (Academic Integrity Game)

Winter 2011 Student Code of Conduct Violations and Outcomes

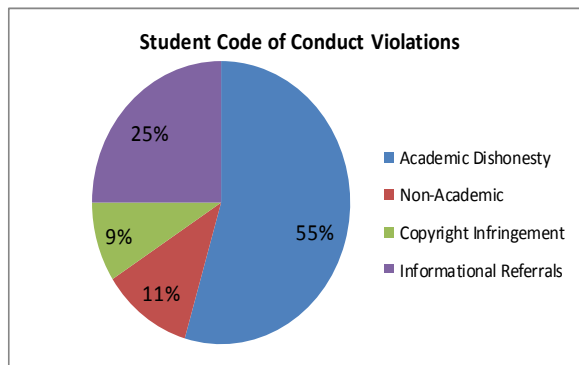


Figure 1

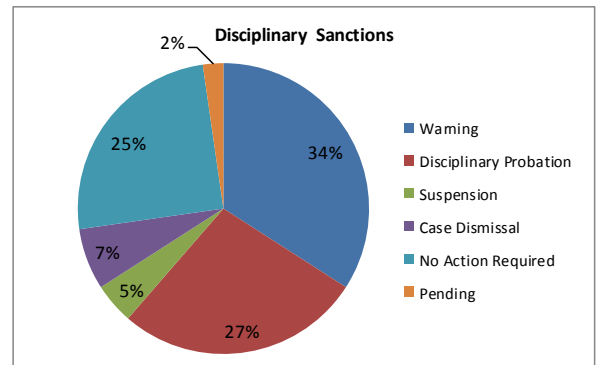


Figure 2

Figure 1: Forty-four cases were reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Cases included: **Academic Dishonesty** (plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized collaboration, and forgery); **Non-Academic** (theft, threatening conduct, and public intoxication); **Copyright Infringement** (illegal downloading); and **Informational Referrals** (for information purpose only).

Figure 2: Sanctions consisted of: **Warning** (some with an educational component); **Disciplinary Probation** (all with one or more educational components); and **Suspension** (all with one or more educational components). Educational components included: reflective paper, apology letter, online academic integrity tutorial, workshop referral, research paper, and community service just to name a few.

Additional outcomes also included **Case Dismissal** (due to insufficient evidence); no action required (applied to most informational referrals); and pending cases (cases which have not yet been resolved).

Overview of Winter 2011 Workshops

We know college can be a stressful time for students, especially when it comes to writing assignments. Some student may get writer's block, others may experience anxiety, while some do not understand citing rules or simply forget to cite. To help students succeed academically and overcome the hurdles of academic writing, we teamed up with two English faculty, Ms. Rebecca Hewett and Ms. Jan Titus, to offer two great workshop during Winter 2011. These were *Avoiding Plagiarism by Understanding Citations* and *Managing the Writing Process*. We thank Ms. Hewett and Ms. Titus for their time and dedication. We invite suggestions for new workshops and encourage students to participate in future workshops.

Food for Thought

Have you ever wondered what actions constitute **academic dishonesty**? We all know terms such as plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized collaboration are all forms of academic dishonesty, but let's examine these words and point out specific actions that you may or may not know constitute academic dishonesty. For instance, did you know:

1. Wandering eyes during an exam could be considered cheating.
2. Forgetting to put quotation marks around a direct quote is considered plagiarism.
3. Forgetting to cite or incorrectly citing direct quotes or paraphrased information is considered plagiarism.
4. If you know someone is coping answers from your exam and you do nothing to stop it, you are just as guilty of cheating as the other person.
5. It is considered plagiarism if you provide a reference or works cited page, but forget to or fail to provide in-text citations.
6. If you work on a graded assignment with someone else without the permission of the instructor, it is considered unauthorized collaboration.
7. If you falsify information, such as statistics on your research paper, it is considered academic dishonesty.
8. If you use your friend's paper to write your own paper, and you choose to "borrow" information from it, it is considered academic dishonesty.
9. If you sign on behalf of your professor to add or drop a class, not only is it academic dishonesty, is it also a federal crime.
10. Submitting the same paper you wrote for a former class to a current class without permission from the instructor is considered academic dishonesty.
11. The best way to avoid academic dishonesty is to know and understand your Professor's expectations, and when in doubt, JUST ASK!

What to for in Fall 2011

Ethics Awareness Week (Fall quarter only)

Every year we strive to increase ethical awareness on the CSUB campus. The goal is to have students ask themselves "What are ethics?" "How do ethics impact my life, my area of study, my future career, and my everyday decision making?" This is done through an annual event titled Ethics Awareness Week (EAW). Ethics Awareness Week is a week long event that exposes students to ethical dynamics of various academic disciplines and fields. Visit www.csub.edu/ethics for more information about EAW, volunteer opportunities during the event, and how to WIN great prizes all week long.

OSRR Student Ambassadors Committee

If you are passionate about your University and want to play an active role in educating students about their rights and responsibilities as CSUB students, then you need to join the OSRR Student Ambassadors Committee. The OSRR Student Ambassadors Committee will work hand-in-hand with the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities to advocate and promote a culture of truth, responsibility, and integrity both inside and outside the classroom.

Involved students will benefit from leadership development, networking opportunities, enhancement of communication skills, and resume building.

To join the OSRR Student Ambassadors Committee, or for more information, contact the OSRR at (661) 654-2680.

Your Ethics Matter!
www.csub.edu/osrr
661.654.2680