

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD
ACADEMIC SENATE

Response to Student Misconduct Task Force Report

RES 192013

AAC, AS&SS

RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate thanks the Student Misconduct Task Force members for their service; and further be it

RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate recommends the following interim measures while a more in-depth campus conversation occurs around academic integrity violations:

- (1) The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) should make an annual report to the Academic Senate of anonymized data about academic integrity violations and sanctions.
- (2) OSRR should have a dotted line report to Academic Affairs and the Registrar, in addition to reporting to Student Affairs.
- (3) OSRR should communicate, as much as is allowed by confidentiality policies and regulations, with the reporting faculty members when academic integrity violations are reported.

RATIONALE: The Student Misconduct Task Force was convened in 2018/19 and submitted its report in Fall 2019. The major finding of the report, which was reaffirmed in subcommittee discussions, is that there is a disconnect between the Student Affairs and Academic Affairs in the area of academic integrity violations. The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) is organized in Student Affairs and is primarily concerned with student code of conduct violations.

Academic integrity violations have repercussions in both Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. Students who have violated academic integrity rules can face immediate academic consequences, such as a zero on an exam or a failing grade in the course. They may also face student code of conduct violations due to their actions. In addition, students who fail a course due to an academic integrity violation are not eligible to replace that course grade. The Registrar's office needs to know which grades should not be replaced.

However, the disconnect between Student Affairs, the Registrar, and Academic Affairs means that there may not be further academic consequences, beyond the assignment or course grade, for students who have serious academic integrity violations or a history of repeated academic integrity violations. For example, per policy, students who fail due to academic integrity violations are not eligible for course repeat with grade replacement. Currently, there is no tracking of repeat academic integrity violations and no information available about consequences for severe violations. This has caused faculty discontent with the current process of reporting academic integrity violations to OSRR.

The task force recommended an updated academic integrity violation process through OSRR and an annual reporting mechanism to the Academic Senate from OSRR. During subcommittee discussions, it became clear that there is a need for a centralized academic unit to investigate academic integrity violations across the campus, as an individual faculty member, department, or program cannot be aware of student misconduct in courses outside of their area, but that this does not necessarily have to be OSRR. Subcommittees also noted the need to address the unintentional bias that leads to stereotyping which students are most likely to cheat.

While further discussions are needed about academic integrity violations and how to manage centralized academic integrity violation investigations, there is a need for immediate, interim actions to address academic integrity concerns while those conversations occur. These interim measures will improve communication and transparency, as much as is allowed by confidentiality policies and regulations, between Student Affairs, the Registrar, and Academic Affairs while further conversations occur.

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