Welcome!

By: Monica Holland

It seems a little late in the semester to offer a welcome announcement to students, staff, and faculty, but it has only been a few short weeks since the Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs created Academic Initiatives and Integrity. I am so excited to be leading the efforts of this unit and furthering the University’s commitment to increasing its academic reputation and the value and prestige of the degrees it awards.

We have some exciting initiatives to unveil in the near future, but in the meantime we are working hard with the current policies and procedures which ultimately serve to protect the value of all University of Arkansas degrees. If you have any questions, suggestions, or general comments, please feel free to contact me or one of my staff at honesty@uark.edu.

Best wishes as the fall semester comes to an end!

Academic Initiatives and Integrity’s Mission Statement:

Through the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Academic Initiatives and Integrity strives to create a culture of honesty and personal and professional responsibility among University of Arkansas students, faculty, and staff. As a community of scholars we uphold academic integrity as foundational to appropriate conduct within the university setting. Academic Initiatives and Integrity manages outreach efforts for policy education and facilitates the University’s process for alleged violations with the All University Academic Integrity Board.
During the 2011-2012 academic year, Academic Initiatives and Integrity (formerly part of the Office of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct) continued to focus on educating the University of Arkansas community on the new Academic Integrity policy to subsequently deter behaviors that do not conform to the standards set forth by the University. Since the implementation of the new policy, there was an increase in academic integrity activity. We attribute this increase, in part, to the simplified reporting process. Faculty members find it easier to adhere to the policy and are therefore submitting cases that previously they might have attempted to address themselves. Below is a look back on this past year’s activity.

### Offense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Integrity Violation (Old Policy)</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copying during an examination</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using unauthorized material during and exam</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborating during an exam</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aiding/facilitating in an act of academic dishonesty</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborating on an assignment</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using other coursework with permission</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falsification of attendance</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plagiarism</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buying, selling, or obtaining information</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substituting for another to take an exam</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submitting another’s work as your own</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submitting altered/ falsified data</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Altering grades or official records</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signing another’s name on any University related document</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabotaging another student’s work</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Academic Integrity Cases Submitted 409

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**Contributors:** Monica Holland, Debbie Frederiksen

Please direct all questions, comments, or story ideas to Debbie Frederiksen, Graduate Assistant for Academic Initiatives and Integrity.

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**Academic Integrity Monitor Spotlight**

Patricia R. Koski
Associate Dean, Graduate School and International Education

What’s the biggest change you’ve noticed since the new academic integrity policy and process were implemented?

The biggest change that I have seen is that the faculty have begun to really trust the policy. It is clear to both faculty and students that the University considers academic integrity issues to be serious, and that when students violate the policy, there will be consequences.

What has been the faculty’s response?

The faculty are beginning to understand and use the policy. They are being very supportive.

What’s it like being an Academic Integrity Monitor?

It’s certainly been interesting. I have always felt very strongly about academic integrity and this allows me to participate directly in the process. There have been some student cases that have made me sad, and some that have caused me to shake my head in wonder.

What is your advice to students regarding academic integrity?

Consider your personal ethics to be one of your most important characteristics. Don’t cheat, don’t help other people cheat, tell someone when you see someone cheat and take academic integrity seriously. Once you have lost people’s trust in your integrity, you will find it very hard to get back.

What would you like to see in the future regarding academic integrity on our campus?

In general, we just need more education. I think we have a very good, very workable policy on campus now and I want to thank Provost Gaber, Vice Provost Di Brezzo, Dr. Monica Holland and Dr. Paul Cronan as well as the amazing Ad Hoc committee that created this policy. I hope that students and faculty both take this policy and issue seriously and help us ensure that we have a campus that understands the importance of ethics.

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Look for more soon... we'll be back in the spring! >>>
Academic Issues Around the Globe

A cademic integrity isn't just an important issue on our campus, but it's a prevalent topic worldwide. Check out some of the discussion in recent news:

“Studies Find More Students Cheating, With High Achievers No Exception”

“Harvard Students in Cheating Scandal Say Collaboration Was Accepted”
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/01/education/students-of-harvard-cheating-scandal-say-group-work-was-accepted.html

“Students will show academic integrity — if colleges support it”
Boston Globe, September 5, 2012
http://articles.boston.com/2012-09-05/opinion/33581799_1_grade-inflation-college-students-academic-integrity

“Dishonorable conduct?”
Inside Higher Ed, September 5, 2012

“Bucharest University Senate meets over Prime Minister plagiarism case, Ponta could lose PhD”
Romania Insider, September 15, 2012

“Honor Codes Work Where Honesty Has Already Taken Root”

“Formal investigation launched into work at dean's lab”
Times Higher Education, September 18, 2012
http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=421188

Policy FAQ

“Submitting without specific permission of the instructor, work that has been previously offered by the same student for credit in another course.”

Essentially, this means you can’t recycle your own work. If you wrote a paper during a freshmen class and a few semesters later you are given a very similar assignment, you can’t use the previous paper without permission from your instructor. Many students wonder why this is a violation, since it’s their own work. The purpose of a college education is not to just get by recycling information previously developed. It’s to learn.

Each semester you advance through your program you gain additional knowledge that influences your thoughts and interpretations of information. Doing the assignment again later in your college career should yield very different results.

So remember...recycling is good for the environment, but not for your education!