

Report of Committee on Instruction

During the Spring 2016 semester, the Committee on Instruction met several times with Margaret Usdansky, Director of the SU Office of Academic Integrity, regarding the proposed new Academic Integrity Policy. Details of last semester's meetings were submitted in a report to the Senate at the end of Spring 2016.

Over the summer, a few members of the Committee on Instruction reviewed drafts of the new Policy, met with Margaret Usdansky, and suggested additional revisions to the Policy. The attached Policy is the result of these activities.

The key benefits of the new Policy are that:

- It is designed to cultivate an environment of honesty and integrity throughout the University;
- It allows for the fair and efficient disposition of a majority of cases through the use of interviews, which often will obviate the need for full hearings and written appeals;
- It establishes uniform standards across all Schools and Colleges;
- It's multi-level design will remove some of the barriers associated with the existing Policy (the current Policy's structure and presumptive penalties may have been an impediment to the reporting of suspected, low-level violations); and
- It is in line with the best practices adopted by other Universities.

On September 21, 2016, the Committee on Instruction voted to put the new Academic Integrity Policy before the full SU Senate for consideration. The Committee voted in favor of its adoption, with the following caveats:

- That the Office of Academic Integrity prepare and distribute simple training materials for both Faculty and Staff to smooth the adoption of the new Policy.
- That the Office of Academic Integrity provide to the Committee on Instruction one semester after adoption a detailed report that compares statistics regarding cases submitted, dismissed or sanctioned between the old and new Policy.

John Dannenhoffer

October 4, 2016