

SUMMARY

Las Positas College
Academic Integrity Work Group Meeting

Friday, March 23, 2018
1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Student Services & Administration Building, Room 1669
Office of the Vice President of Student Services, Conference Room

Attendees: Garrett Culbertson, Katie Eagan, William Garcia, Michelle Gonzales, Tatiana Hernandez, Heidi McMichael, Donna Reed, and Karin Spirn

1. Welcome and Introductions

William welcomed and thanked the attendees for taking the time to meet. Each attendee introduced themselves.

2. Status of Academic Integrity Investigations

a. Review of Course Hero

William distributed an agenda and three handouts. The first handout included three applicable standards from the student code of conduct relating to academic integrity. The second handout was an article from The Chronicle of Higher Education titled, "New Fellowship Seeks to Help Tenure-Track Faculty Members Elevate Teaching." The third handout were printouts from Course Hero which were provided by a current Las Positas College student who has been accused of utilizing the website.

b. Reactions by Las Positas College students

William reported that he had investigated two Las Positas College students who had been accused of utilizing Course Hero by two faculty members. William shared that both students were unaware of the existence of the Standards of Student Conduct and both students did not realize that their actions were a violation of various standards. Both students who were investigated did not have previously student conduct violations, both admitted to utilizing Course Hero, both students have been in contact with their instructors, and both students have taken steps to deactivate their Course Hero accounts.

c. Article from The Chronicle of Higher Education on Course Hero

William shared the article from The Chronicle of Higher Education on Course Hero. There was conversation about the messaging of Course Hero to students and how the website is found or referenced including the Las Positas College website.

3. Review of Standards of Student Conduct

a. Applicable standards to academic integrity

William reviewed the listing of three applicable standards from the student code of conduct relating to academic integrity. Katie asked that one additional standard be added to the list. Katie asked that the statement that reads, "Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question, such as: copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; communicating test information with another person during an examination; preprogramming a calculator or computer to contain answers or other unauthorized information for exams; using unauthorized materials, prepared answers, written notes, or concealed information during an examination; and allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, including the use of a commercial term paper service." William agreed to update the one-page document per the recommendation.

b. Plans to update Standards of Student Conduct

William announced that there is a work group that was formed in coordination with the Academic Senate to review and update the current Standards of Student Conduct and make recommendations for updating the applicable board policy, administrative procedure, and corresponding protocol. Cindy Rosefield and Kimberly Tomlinson are on the work group.

4. Next Steps

a. Response by Las Positas College

i. Role of Faculty (syllabi, course assignments, test banks, etc.)

It was recognized that faculty have academic freedom and that this must be recognized and respected. The group agreed that recommendations may be made and that best practices should be shared among faculty. There was conversation about having a standardized statement on syllabi for all courses, that faculty should consider copyrighting their material, lesson plans should be changed frequently, topic to be introduced in Smart Shop Workshops, faculty should report violations of the standards to their respective dean and Student Services, discussions should be encouraged at division meetings, and encourage faculty to utilize available technology to help detect academic dishonesty. Karin shared her past recommendation of instituting a "plagiarism traffic school."

ii. Role of Administrators (outreach campaign, revising student orientation, etc.)

It was recognized that administrators also have a role in addressing academic integrity. The group agreed that recommendations may include initiating a

campus-wide outreach campaign to educate students of the standards of student conduct and the importance of maintaining academic integrity, revising the current online student orientation, and continue to work on revising and updating the standards of student conduct with the work group.

b. Student disciplinary action (restorative or punitive)

There was discussion about what is the appropriate action that should be taken by college faculty and administrators to address academic dishonesty. Faculty will continue to adhere to their respective syllabi and grade as such. Administrators will apply a restorative justice approach to discipline when possible. Prior violations of the standards of student conduct and the number of academic dishonesty cases reported need to be taken into consideration. Again, the attendees agreed that revising and updating the standards of student conduct by the work group is needed.

c. Report to Las Positas College Academic Senate on April 11, 2018

William shared that Melissa Korber invited him to give an update at the Academic Senate meeting scheduled for April 11, 2018. William plans to arrive to the meeting at approximately 3:00 p.m. William plans to share information on what was discussed today and the progress being made by the standards of student conduct work group.

5. Open Discussion

The attendees addressed their concerns and frustration with the technology provided by the college to assist with maintaining academic integrity. In the past, "Turnitin" was utilized to help detect plagiarism but college administrators in the past informed faculty that the software was too expensive. The college then agreed to purchase and support Blackboard which utilized "SafeAssign" to perform similar functions. With the recent transition to Canvas, a new software titled, "VeriCite" is now being used and according to the VeriCite website is now part of "Turnitin." The faculty in attendance advocated for the return to utilizing "Turnitin" as a college.

The attendees expressed their concerns and frustration with past administration responses or lack thereof of referrals of violations of the standards of student conduct. William assured the attendees that since his arrival to Las Positas College in May 2017 that all referrals have been investigated, student discipline has been issued, and reporting parties have been kept informed.

Michelle shared some best practices from four-year universities that Las Positas College may want to consider. See links below.

Colorado State University

<https://tilt.colostate.edu/integrity/resourcesStudents/isItCheating.cfm>

Elon University

<http://elon.smartcatalog.co/en/2017-2018/Student-Handbook/The-Honor-System-Code-of-Conduct-and-Processes/Section-I-The-Honor-System>

University of Virginia

<https://honor.virginia.edu/academic-fraud>

Webster University

<http://www.webster.edu/faculty/ppp/best-practices-for-preventing-plagiarism.html>

The group also recommended looking at the Livermore High School Code of Conduct available online at:

<http://livermorehs.schoolloop.com/file/1189891547438/14492531944939464761472997962582.pdf>

6. Adjournment

William thanked the attendees for taking the time to meet and adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:15 p.m.