

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE RETROSPECTIVE

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Presentation Description

A review of the past two years of trials and successes experienced in developing a comprehensive Academic Integrity program at College of DuPage.

Presentation Summary

The last two years have seen great progress in the development of a comprehensive Academic Integrity Office at the College of DuPage. Currently housed in the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of Integrity would be a new, self-governing office within Academic Affairs. The presentation consisted of a brief history, current status and future goals of the Office of Integrity at College of DuPage

Historical Background

In 2015, at the request of faculty, the Academic Integrity Committee was formed to evaluate the current academic integrity process at College of DuPage and make a recommendation to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs on the best course of action to transition the functionality of the academic dishonesty process from Student Services to Academic Affairs. During the course of the committee's work, several obstacles continued to impede progress, namely the constant transition of administrators overseeing the work of the committee. At the time of this presentation, the committee had reported to six administrators in three years. Most of the early work of the committee was taking the college policy and subsequent procedure and transitioning the procedure to fit under the new administrative structure. This included input from Faculty Senate, the College of DuPage Adjuncts Association (CODAA), the College of DuPage Faculty Association (CODFA), as well as various other impacted constituency groups.

In 2016, the committee formally changed its title to the Academic Integrity Transition Committee and began to focus on the process of evaluating the transition of the reporting of academic dishonesty to Academic Affairs. During that time, a side conversation spurred a number of faculty development sessions during faculty in-service activities. From this came the creation of a faculty resources page through the library, as well as a faculty recognition award for those

adhering to best practices in testing. Additionally, an informal poll of faculty suggested that reportable incidents of academic dishonesty could be as high as 3,000 per year, but that faculty failed to report them, as they no longer believed the system would sufficiently sanction students.

Throughout this time, the committee continued to work on the procedure through additional administrative changes, therefore impeding any forward progress. There were several positive side initiatives. The committee launched a slogan contest to encourage students to create a slogan for the academic honesty campaign. The students submitted multiple slogans and the committee selected one finalist and two runners up. These slogans were used on media to promote the college's involvement in a global ethics event on October 18, 2017 as well as throughout additional activities during the subsequent academic years.

During the final months leading up to the conference, with an impending seventh administrative transition and as the college faced additional restructuring as Student Services and Academic Affairs were realigning under the newly created Provost position, it was decided to focus the energies of the committee from procedural alignment to project awareness. At that time, committee members met with the Dean of Students and her team to outline the early steps of the transition, understanding that funding had not been secured to complete the transition. Additionally, due to a lack of faculty reporting, the evidence was not available to make a clear, concise case to allocate the resources necessary to create an office of integrity on the COD campus. This, in many ways, was an artifact of the multiple directions the committee had taken through the myriad of administrative oversight. All that said, it is clear that more data was needed to support the claim that this office was necessary.

Current Status

The team has transitioned once again from the Academic Integrity Transition Committee into the Academic Integrity Implementation Committee. This is an exciting step towards finalizing the transition process and beginning to focus on the keep component of the committee's initial vision; to invigorate the dialogue and discourse of academic integrity and its benefits on our college campus. This has brought new vigor to the committee and several exciting events have happened as of late. Through the affiliation of the committee with the International Center of Academic Integrity (ICAI), a relationship was established with the European Network for Academic Integrity. From this, one of the co-chairs traveled to Izmir, Turkey on a Global

Education Grant through the COD Foundation to attend the 4th Annual Plagiarism Across Europe and Beyond Conference. In addition, the committee finalized the FY18 year by presenting here at the 8th Annual Responsible Conduct of Research and Academic Integrity Conference at College of DuPage.

Future

The committee is excited to continue to invigorate the campus community and is creating a multi-year strategic plan that includes increased involvement in campus activities. This academic year, the committee will be present at New Student Orientation, Faculty In-Service and the Student Life Fair during the fall. Additionally, a full week of professional development is planned around the October in-service, which happens to align with Global Ethics Week. Further, a screening of the international film, *Bad Genius* will take place during February as part of COD's Global Flicks Program. The committee will continue to participate in academic integrity discussions with the intent of raising expectations with faculty to produce the data needed supporting the creation of an office of academic integrity on campus.