

Motion presented to Faculty Senate 3/29/11
Proposed revision of the Student Academic Honesty Code

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee unanimously recommends acceptance of the following revisions to the Student Academic Honesty Code.

Revised code

The entire Student Academic Honesty Code can be viewed at this link:

http://www2.binghamton.edu:8080/exist6/rest/lists2010-11/2_academic_policies_and_procedures_all_students/academicPoliciesAndProcedureAllStudents.xml?_xsl=/db/xsl/compose.xsl - top

Revisions to several sections of the code are presented below:

Interpretation of the Code

Violations of the code vary in severity, so that the appropriate punishments vary. Some violations (Category I) may be handled by the instructor and student(s) involved. However, violations requiring more severe penalties (Category II) are appropriately dealt with by the Academic Honesty Committee of the relevant school in accordance with procedures laid out in the Rules of Student Conduct. Category I violations are serious but may be dealt with by the instructor. Category II violations may result in letters of reprimand, probation, suspension or expulsion from the University, **transcript notation, and/or revocation of degree or honors**. Behavior explicitly permitted in a course syllabus or explicitly permitted by the instructor for a specific assignment is not a violation of the code.

Cheating on Examinations

This may be either a Category I or Category II violation, depending on the level or amount of unauthorized help given or received on the examination and the degree of premeditation. Category I includes looking at another's examination or collaborating on a small portion of the examination. Category II violations involve **significant** cheating on ~~an most or all of an entire~~ examination — ~~for example, providing a copy of an examination to another student or allowing another student to take an examination in one's place.~~ Category II violations and may involve more planning and premeditation.

New final paragraph:

Violations Concerning Honors Projects, Theses and Dissertations

In cases of alleged violations of the academic honesty code in honors projects, theses or dissertations, a faculty member who was not part of the original honors, thesis or dissertation committee may be appointed by the head of the academic unit to investigate. The investigation will be conducted in accordance with the policies stated above for Category II violations and under the guidance of the detailed procedures developed by each unit. In addition to possible sanctions mentioned above, there may

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be other sanctions as deemed appropriate, such as notation on the transcript; requiring students/graduates to revise and resubmit honors projects, theses or dissertations for approval; and/or revocation of the degree or honors.

Explanation

The Student Academic Honesty Code provides a broad policy framework for dealing with violations of academic honesty and provides for a central reporting mechanism. Each unit is in charge of detailed procedures for handling academic honesty cases. In Fall 2010, the Dean of the Graduate School brought up an issue that was not addressed by the current code relating to violations of academic honesty in theses or dissertations leading to degrees or honors designations. It is possible that complaints about breaches of academic honesty might come from outside parties. The additional final paragraph of the revised code provides procedures for handling such a situation.

There are also some minor changes in wording in other places in the document to remove language which has caused difficulties in implementation. Feedback from the Graduate School, the EPPC and Faculty Senate Executive Committee was provided to the Academic Honesty Implementation Committee headed by Don Loewen for final determination of the precise proposed phrasing for policy changes.