

TO: Dr. Simon Bott, Chair Undergraduate Committee

RECEIVED JUN 06 2012

From: Ad Hoc Subcommittee reviewing the revised Academic Honesty Policy

Date: 5 June 2012

APPROVED AUG 11 2012

The Subcommittee had internet communications to review the revised policy. The Subcommittee members were Tamara Fish, Christine Gola, Reagan Herman, Christine LeVeaux, Daniel Maxwell, Kevin Simon, Larry Williams.

Specific Comments:

4.01 Sanctions – inconsistent font sizes throughout the paragraph (I assume an editor will catch this before going to print, but thought I would mention anyway).

1.02

MS Word document makes it appear phone number 3-9021 is correction from 3-9222, but the older PDF already has phone number 3-9021 which seems to be that of a Honors College faculty

member: http://www.uh.edu/class/history/faculty-and-staff/valier_h/index.php

Shouldn't the number just be the main office number (713-743-9104) listed at top of page this site?

<http://www.research.uh.edu/Home/DOR-People/Staff-List.aspx#OrgChart>

1.02

Recommend deletion of "on the World Wide Web" at end of paragraph

1.11

Might be silly, but given we define everything else should "university" be defined as "University of Houston." In first statement of whole policy lead off with "The university can best" And throughout use "university" rather than University or University of Houston. Note - I am assuming this policy is just for the University of Houston not the University of Houston System.

1.11.01

Period followed directly by comma.

1.11.03

Delete word "tape" in front of "recordings." Lots more recording formats now.

Section 1.11.05 Instructor – "...in charge of the **section** in which an alleged...", and "...record of the **course section** in question..." We no longer use the term *sections* and *course sections* at UH; we use the terms *class*, and *class number*.

1.11.08

Is “graduates” supposed to be “graduate students”? I would think “graduates” would be alumni, not students.

I think it is important 1.11.08 be changed since I think intention is to name “graduate students” as students not “graduates.”

1.12

I think there are multiple e-mail addresses in the “University of Houston records” for many students. Perhaps state that notices will be sent to students’ @uh.edu e-mail aliases?

Section 1.12 Notification – “...via email or US mail at his/her **address** as it appears...” Should we use the term *mailing address* as opposed to just *address*?

2.02

- First sentence – delete “taken.”
- Does first sentence intend to mean that if a person erroneously (not “in good faith”) reports an incident of alleged academic dishonesty then retaliation against them would not be a violation of this policy? I don’t think that is the intention, so I am not sure that “in good faith” needs to be in this sentence. Instead, seems like there should be a sanction for knowingly making a false report.
- This should not start with word “Article” since it is sub-heading to Article 2.
- In last sentence I would think “may” should be “shall” or “will” if we want to have more teeth in this. I would think “may” infers UH might not follow up on retaliation.
- 2.02 doesn’t seem to fit under a heading of “Preventative Practices.” Wouldn’t “Article 4 Sanctions” be a better fit for the “Retaliation” sub-heading?

3.02m

I was a prior opponent to the word “possession” in 3.02m, in vein of it is illegal to both possess certain drugs and use said drugs but illegal to possess a phone? So I thought 3.02m should lead off with “use” not possess. But after talking to lots of students about the rampant cheating I am in favor of “possess” not “use” now. Too many students have proved to me if they possess it, they will use it. I really dislike “visible possession of.” Students can text on phones concealed in their pockets. “Actual possession” would maybe be even better, but we would need to define this legal term as possessing on your person as opposed to possessing in your book bag that is not in physical contact with you. But I do not like “visible possession” and I think this wording creates a loophole we don’t want to create.

I am passionate in my dislike of “visible possession” in 3.02m. If you want to imply it is okay for the student to have a cell phone in their book bag then I would

use the legal term “actual possession” and define that this means in physical contact with the person. I think it is important that students not have their cell phones in their pockets since they can text without seeing the display, and the “visible possession” wording would also mean that if they have a phone in a pocket, then they can leave the exam room (to go to the bathroom) with the phone on them. With “visible possession” and “exam room” both in 3.02m the policy would not actually state that it would be a violation for a student to use their phone during the exam if they aren’t in the exam room.

As an addendum, perhaps electronic communication device use should be a violation if it occurs during the time period in which an exam is being administered to the student rather than only in the exam room.

4.01

Seems like a bulleted list would be better presentation of the disparate ideas in this paragraph. Also could use some reordering.

Is “Students are not permitted enrollment under sanctions of suspension, permanent suspension and expulsion” a statement that is needed. Aren’t suspension and expulsion defined elsewhere by the University?

4.01 Sanctions – inconsistent font sizes throughout the paragraph (I assume an editor will catch this before going to print, but thought I would mention anyway).

5.01

New last sentence has run-on feel. I also don’t think word “reset” is appropriate, and I would think there should be rules on how long the hearing could be postponed. I am arbitrarily using 5 days as length below in possible rephrasing:

If physical evidence or witness testimony is presented in a departmental hearing, and the accused student needs reasonable time to review the evidence and/or consider the witness testimony, the accused student can request a postponement of the departmental hearing. Decisions on postponement of the hearing will be made at the discretion of the chair. The hearing cannot be postponed for a period longer than 5 days.

5.03

This section is confusing. If a witness is giving testimony that applies to all accused students don’t all accused students have the right to hear that testimony? But the last sentence says that the presenting student can testify outside the hearing of the other students. I don’t know what applies to testifying students and what applies to accused students in this section.

5.05.

Is it the Dean of the College or Dean of Students. Should be Dean of the College, it seems.

6.06

Capitalize students in first line – “Dean of Students” not “Dean of students”

6.07b

Testimony should be plural

Perhaps last sentence should start with “upon request” rather than end with it.

Line 4: which “chair” is this?

6.07c

I think first sentence would read better as “An audio recording of the hearing will be made.” I would delete the parenthetical statement “(if any)”. If it ends up being free just state that at the time.

General Comments:

There are also many typos to be fixed (missing spaces, extra spaces) throughout. (A careful proof-reading is needed.)

Some of the comments (below) are editorial suggestions. I personally would use a different capitalization style throughout (more capitalization on things like Departmental Hearing, University where reference is to UH, etc.). But so long as a consistent style is used this would fall under personal preference.

Recommendations:

1. The Committee authoring the revised policy address all specific remarks in this report.
2. The Committee authoring the revised policy seriously consider all general comments from the University Committee and guests generated during our discussion.
3. The Committee authoring the revised policy respond in writing to the Undergraduate Committee regarding the above two recommendations to allow additional review by UC, if necessary, before adaptation and implementation of the revised Academic Honesty Policy.