Review and Revision of the Academic Integrity Policy:
Background, Process & Timeline

1. What are the goals of the policy review and revision?

- Helping change the climate so that academic integrity is integral to everything we do at SU (Effectiveness)
- Helping faculty deal with “small problems” before they become “big problems” (Flexibility)
- Making the process fairer across all faculty, programs and colleges (Fairness)
- Streamlining the process so that cases can be handled expeditiously (Efficiency)

2. How were the proposed policy revisions arrived at and developed?

Initial planning: The Academic Integrity Office (AIO) held a half-day retreat and brainstorming session co-led by Whitman School of Management Associate Dean Amanda Nicholson and Academic Integrity Office Director Margaret Usdansky in October 2015. This session drew several dozen faculty members, students and administrators representing every school and college.

Proposal development: Ideas from the October session were further elaborated during four meetings of the 40-member, university-wide Academic Integrity Policy Review Advisory Committee in November. This committee, co-chaired by Biology Department Chair Ramesh Raina and ECS Bioengineering Graduate Program Director and academic integrity hearing panel chair Jay Henderson, brought together 18 faculty members, 10 students and 12 administrators knowledgeable about current academic integrity policy. The Review Advisory Committee included representatives from each SU School and College, as well as from the Student Association, Graduate Student Organization, Athletics, Slutzker Center for International Services, and Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Presentation and solicitation of feedback: Presentations describing the proposed revisions and soliciting comment were made to faculty of all the Schools and Colleges, to the School and College Deans, to the Senate Committee onInstruction, and to the Student Association and Graduate Student Organization between December 2015 and February 2016. Suggestions have been – and will continue to be – incorporated into the revision proposals.

3. What happens next?

The proposed policy revisions are tentatively scheduled to be brought to the University Senate for consideration in spring 2016 and then submitted to the Vice Chancellor and Provost. If approved, the new policy would go into effect in fall 2016. An optional pilot program incorporating the proposed revisions for graduate students facing academic integrity charges is ongoing at several schools and colleges.

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