Review and Revision of the Academic Integrity Policy

What, Why and How

The Academic Integrity Office

1. Why is the Policy being reviewed now?

Widespread support for some elements of the Policy, particularly the maintenance of centralized violation records, is increasingly tempered by concern that the Policy places an undue burden on faculty, students and administrators.

2. What kinds of concerns have been raised?

A recurring concern is that the Policy provides only one avenue for resolution when the instructor bringing the charge or the student being charged has significant questions about the case: a formal hearing. The absence of simpler, faster options for case resolution fosters the need for a large number of hearings – between 55 and 69 per year since FY13. Hearings can be stressful and time consuming for students and faculty and require significant school/college resources.

3. When was the Policy last revised?

The most recent revision went into effect in August 2011.

4. How were the new proposed revisions arrived at?

The Academic Integrity Office (AIO) held an initial brainstorming session involving over 40 faculty, students and administrators from every school and college in October. Ideas from this session were further developed during four meetings of a 40-member Academic Integrity Policy Review Advisory Committee in November. This committee included some members of the brainstorming session as well as other faculty, students and administrators collectively representing all the schools and colleges.

5. What happens next?

Presentations to faculty, students and administrators will take place in December and January. Drafting of a revised policy will occur during February. Proposed revisions and opportunities to submit feedback will be made available via the AIO website (www.academicintegrity.syr.edu) in the spring semester and will include a timeline for the Policy review process. A revised Policy is tentatively scheduled to be submitted to the University Senate Committee on Instruction and then to the Provost in spring 2016.