

Motion on Academic Honesty and GP Grades

Effectively Immediately

Motion:

The Academic Honesty Policy is modified as follows

Additions ~~Deletions~~

IV. Procedures for Resolving Matters of Academic Dishonesty

The following procedure is the only approved means for resolving matters of academic dishonesty, except for matters arising in the College of Law which has its own Honor Code for handling such matters. It is available to all members of the academic community who wish to pursue an action against a student for academic dishonesty.

1. Initiation: If a member of the academic community believes that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty in a course, on a test, or as a part of an academic program, that individual is responsible for initiating action against the student or bringing the matter to the attention of an individual who may initiate action against the student. In allegations of academic dishonesty involving course requirements, the course faculty member is generally responsible for initiating the action. If the alleged violation involves a departmental program requirement (for example, comprehensive examination or language competency examination) or an institutionally-required test (for example, test of Georgia/United States history or Georgia/United States constitutions), or if the individual who discovers the incident is not a faculty member, the individual should bring the matter to the attention of the faculty member and administrator who has responsibility of overseeing the activity (for example, departmental chair, director of the Testing Office). If that administrator decides to bring charges of academic dishonesty against the student, then that administrator becomes the initiator. (Test proctors, laboratory assistants, and other individuals who are not course faculty members should bring any instances of alleged academic dishonesty to the attention of the course faculty member or their administrative superior. That individual, after weighing the evidence, may become the initiator by formally charging the student with academic dishonesty.) The channel of review, recommendation, and decision-making follows the administrative lines associated with the course or program requirement involved. In any instance, however, when the alleged incident does not occur within the context of a course, and when it is unclear which college ~~of more than one college involved~~ should have jurisdiction in review and decision-making, *any either* unit may initiate the case. For the sake of brevity the following processing procedures are written from an "academic unit/college" perspective. Nonacademic units (i.e., Testing Center) would substitute appropriate supervisory personnel at the respective levels. Herein the "initiator" will be referred to as "faculty member" and the "administrative unit head" will be referred to as "chair," designating the departmental chair. "Dean" will refer to appropriate administrative supervisory personnel at the overall college or division level.

When an allegation of academic honesty is made, the relevant dean will inform the Office of the Registrar to place a grade of GP (grade pending) for the student in the course involved. Withdrawal from a course does not preclude the imposition of penalties for academic dishonesty. While the matter of academic dishonesty is pending, the student will be allowed to continue in the course and register for upcoming semesters. ~~Should a grade be due to the registrar before the matter is resolved, a grade of GP (grade pending) will be reported for the student in the course involved. Withdrawal from a course does not preclude the imposition of penalties for academic dishonesty.~~

2. Penalties to be Imposed: Penalties to be imposed in incidents of academic dishonesty are classified as "academic" or "disciplinary." Academic penalties include such sanctions as assignment of a failing grade for a particular course requirement, or for the course itself, or for other tests or program assignments. Academic penalties are set by the faculty member. Disciplinary sanctions can be sought in addition to those considered academic and could include, but are not limited to, the following penalties: suspension, expulsion, transcript annotations (temporary for a period of five years or permanent, as designated). Disciplinary penalties can be requested by the faculty member in consultation with the department chair or director, must be reviewed by the University Senate Committee on Student Discipline, and are set by the provost.

3. Action at Administrative Unit (Department Level): As soon as possible after the alleged incident, the faculty member should discuss the matter with the student. This discussion should be conducted in a manner that protects the rights and confidentiality of students. If the faculty member believes that academic dishonesty has occurred, the faculty member (with the advice of the chair if necessary) will determine the appropriate academic penalty. The faculty member will complete a "notice of academic dishonesty" form describing the incident and indicating the academic penalty imposed. Any recommendation for a disciplinary penalty must be reviewed in consultation with the chair. The faculty member will deliver to the student the notice of academic dishonesty that includes a statement of appeal rights. If there is difficulty in delivering the notice to the student, the faculty member/chair should request assistance from the college dean in determining the most expeditious way to inform the student that a notice of academic dishonesty has been filed.

Once the student has been informed, the chair forwards the documentation, including the notice of academic dishonesty and an indication of when the student was informed, to the dean to be held pending possible appeal. ~~Until the student has been given the opportunity to appeal, a grade of GP (grade pending) should be submitted for the student for the course involved.~~

4. Student Action: The student will have 20 business days after receipt of the notice of charges of academic dishonesty to submit a written appeal denying the charges and providing any rationale for the appeal. The appeal should be addressed to the college dean of the initiator. In the event the student is found guilty of academic dishonesty, the student does not have the right to appeal the academic penalty assessed by the faculty member, unless the student can prove that such penalty was arbitrarily imposed or discriminatorily applied. If the student wishes to challenge a disciplinary penalty, the student must submit a written rationale for challenging the disciplinary penalty within 20 business days of receipt of the notice of charges of academic dishonesty. The statement of challenge should be addressed to the college dean. The college dean will forward the challenge to the dean of students for inclusion in the review of the disciplinary penalty by the University Senate Committee on Student Discipline. The University Senate Committee on Student Discipline automatically reviews all disciplinary penalties regardless of student appeal.

If the student has also filed an appeal denying the charges of academic dishonesty, any review of disciplinary penalty recommended will be delayed pending review of the charges of academic dishonesty by the college hearing committee.

5. College Action:

5.1. No Appeal by the Student: If the student does not submit a written appeal to the college dean within 20 business days, the dean will notify the chair/faculty member to post any pending grade(s) immediately. The dean will then forward the notice of academic dishonesty to the dean of students for inclusion in the student's disciplinary file. The Senate Committee on Student Discipline also will forward any recommendation of a disciplinary penalty to the dean of students for appropriate review.

5.2. Appeal by the Student: If the student submits a written appeal, ~~within 20 business days, the dean will notify the registrar to issue a grade of GP (grade pending) for the course(s) in question on all transcript requests for the student pending outcome of the appeal.~~ The dean will forward the charges of academic dishonesty to the chair of a college hearing committee and will notify the faculty member to set forth in writing a comprehensive statement describing the incident of academic dishonesty. This statement will be presented to the committee and to the student at least five business days prior to the hearing.

5.3. Student Hearing Committee Process: The college student hearing committee will use the following guidelines to govern the hearing of the appeal:

Within ten business days after the committee receives the charges of academic dishonesty, a hearing date will be determined. The committee will notify the faculty member and the student of the time, date, and the place of the hearing. Copies of all charges of academic dishonesty and related materials for the hearing will be provided to the student at least five business days in advance of the hearing.

The faculty member and the student will be allowed to make oral presentations, call witnesses, and present any documentary evidence regarding the incident in question. The hearing will be recorded on an audiotape. The hearing will not be open to observers.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee will meet in closed session and will make its recommendation as to the guilt or innocence of the student based on a preponderance of evidence with respect to the charge of academic dishonesty. The committee chair will forward to the college dean its findings and recommendations in a written report within five business days of the hearing.

5.4. College Decision on Appeals: Within five business days of receiving the committee's written report, the college dean will make the final decision regarding guilt or innocence. The dean will notify all appropriate parties of the decision.

If the dean finds the student "not guilty," the matter will be terminated, and no notice of charges will be filed with the dean of students. The dean will notify the chair to post the pending course grade promptly and will notify the registrar to remove the GP (grade pending) on the student's transcript.

If the dean finds the student "guilty," the notice of charges of academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the dean of students for inclusion in the student's disciplinary file. The academic penalty stipulated by the faculty member will be imposed. The dean will notify the chair to insure that any pending grade is posted promptly. The dean will notify the registrar to remove the GP (grade pending) on the student's transcript if only an academic penalty was involved. If a disciplinary penalty has been recommended, the dean will notify the registrar to continue the GP (grade pending) annotation until the disciplinary penalty can be reviewed by the University Senate Committee on Student Discipline.

5.5. Appeal of the Decision of the Dean: If the student or initiator wishes to appeal the decision of the college dean regarding guilt or innocence of the charges of academic dishonesty, the student or initiator may appeal to the provost. The subsequent appeal route would be to the president and then the Board of Regents. The student or initiator must submit a written statement of appeal to the provost within 20 business days of notification of the dean's decision. The basis of the appeal must be on the grounds that the decision was arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory.

Rationale:

The language that is being deleted is confusing as it indicates multiple times when a GP grade should be recorded. The revisions make it clear that a GP grade is filed when an academic honesty charge is made and that this GP grade is removed when the case is resolved.

While it does not require a policy change, the subcommittee discussed this matter with the Office of Financial Aid. When a student receives a GP grade, their HOPE eligibility will be held as pending until the case is resolved. The Office of the Registrar and the Office of Financial Aid are working on a system to communicate the placing and removal of GP grades.

The motion also rewords one sentence to make it clearer.