

Academic Integrity General Observations (2010-2011)

Reports concerning **209** incidents of **academic dishonesty** were received which were fewer than the 2008-09 record breaking number of cases (297), and lower than last year's 251 cases.

Plagiarism continues to constitute the single largest number of violations reported (145 students, 69% of total). This suggests that students may not be knowledgeable of proper citation procedures, may lack awareness of the need to respect the intellectual property of others, or that they assess a low priority to acknowledging intellectual property. Coupled with technologies which have promoted student access to vast amounts of electronically published information, this may indicate the need to address professional and academic ethics, along with specific standards and strategies for citation, at the class level. The number of cases also reflects that faculty increasingly utilized the plagiarism prevention technology, turnitin.com, available through the Faculty Development Center. The Associate Dean continues to provide a multitude of outreach activities directed at reducing plagiarism cases.

There were 25 referrals (12%) for **falsification of documents** (up substantially from previous years and including 8 referrals for falsification of CSU application). **Exam violations** represented 10% (20 students), **unauthorized collaboration** represented 4% (8 students) of the total academic integrity violations, and 5% of the cases (11 students) were **cheating on assignments**.

A review of the data concerning academic integrity cases indicates the following **profile**: 51% of the students were female; 28% were Seniors, 28% were Juniors, while 18% were Freshmen; 20% were international students; 11% were in their first semester at the university; 12% had a GPA below 2.00, 27% had a GPA between 2.00-2.49 while 27% had a GPA between 2.50 -2.99; and 24% were students in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences while 23% were in the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics.

The proportion of reported violations by **international students** (as well as students with English as a second language) although less than in previous years, continues to be troubling. Several factors may contribute to this, including: the actual or perceived level of competency of written and oral English, the cultural norms and educational systems of other countries, and violations by international students may be more easily detected (e.g.: plagiarism). Their overrepresentation suggests that the university needs to examine how these students can be better prepared for academic work expectations. The Associate Dean continues to provide outreach for this population.

Sanctions assessed by faculty ranged from an "F" in the course to a "Verbal Warning."

Eight students were **suspended from the University for academic dishonesty violations** (5 for second academic dishonesty violations, 2 for forging university documents, 1 for examination violation including two students from previous years - 1 from 2009-10 and 1 from 2008-09). Thirteen students were **suspended from the University for non-academic violations** (5 drugs, 4 thefts, 1 sexual assault, 1 alcohol, 1 vandalism, 1 harassment). Sixteen students (academic and non-academic) lost the privilege to be **re-admitted to CSUF**. One student was placed on interim suspension and later suspended.

There have been 185 students **suspended or expelled** from CSUF since 1999 (92 academic, 93 non-academic). Judicial Affairs has adjudicated over **4,781 cases** during the twelve years since the office was established.