

## Employee Questions/Comments 2502 – Academic Integrity

### Employee 1 Questions/Comments:

I made a few changes (highlighted in yellow), that you may want to consider.  
Thanks!

Consultation of textbooks, library materials, or notes in examination where such materials are not to be used during **the a test or other assignment**;

Submission of previously-graded work for a new assignment (without instructor's **advance** consent);

If the faculty chooses to impose an **XF** a form must be completed and the appropriate signatures gathered.

### Employee 2 Questions/Comments:

I would like to make a suggestion to this updated policy:

While working with a student who received an XF grade last semester, there was much difficulty in knowing what steps needed to be taken to get the student enrolled in the PHIL 1602 course. While the attached flowchart is helpful, there is no indication of how the student will know when or how to contact the PHIL instructor to take the class. No one reached out to the student I was assisting and I had to work hard to figure out how to make contact and get her enrolled. I would like to suggest a step be added to the process that outlines what information will be shared with the student. Will the Dean or Advisor email the student to begin that process? Will the VP's office send a form letter indicating the course has been approved and that the student should contact their Dean or Advisor? Will students Advisor be given information regarding the next available class? That was the most difficult part of this process. Trying to determine who to talk to and when.

### Employee 3 Questions/Comments:

My comments:

establish clear standards, practices, and procedures and expect **fairness** in the interaction of students, faculty, and administrators. **Fairness is a problematic word. What is fair to one is not fair to another. I'm not certain what the proper word is.... but transparency, uniformity, cooperation, adherence, diligence, honor, and other similar words seem more likely to get to the nature of what is expected. Alternatively, the second portion of the sentence could read something like.... In order to avoid confusion and create an atmosphere where accusations of plagiarism are less likely and focused upon those with the intent to cheat.**

Use (either in part or whole) of documents obtained from **internet** sources **designed to encourage dishonesty** and which are not the immediate result of the student's own academic

effort; Why limit to internet sources? Currently almost all such plagiarism is from an internet source, but other sources could be used. Why the descriptor “designed to encourage dishonesty?” the author of the original work may have been honest and unsuspecting in the creation of the text. Some other person may have taken it and placed in a location to be used in a dishonest fashion. The statement about the students own academic effort is what is important.

Plagiarism (in any form) defined as taking of another person’s intellectual work and using it as one’s own. This may be an overthinking of this issue, but students and faculty use photos and graphics from a variety of sources that are available to them without the need to cite the source (or perhaps there is a need, but it is not always done properly). Does the failure to cite the source mean that the presenter is implying that the work is their own? i.e. photos that do not have a watermark, clip art, photos that are part of the Microsoft Office, etc.

Second issue: Citation of a source is different in speech than in a submitted paper. As part of the learning process, students regularly cite facts early in the semester without a simple (Einstein said) or formal (MLA or similar citation). I use that lack of citation as a learning tool. Although technically a violation, I don’t use any system of formal or informal warning. I talk about the lack of citation and discuss the need for adherence to this principle. Even in the final speech I find that students will sometimes make statements that should be attributed to a specific source or author. I deduct points for the failure to make the citation, but do not treat this as a form of plagiarism that would require the student to earn zero for the assignment. It is required that the text of the speech be the student’s own work and failure to adhere to that principle has resulting in zero points for an assignment. I support the statement above. There are, however, exceptions to this rule as explained above. I’d prefer that the exceptions to the above policy be left to the instructor, department, or division, and not be addressed in a college wide policy. The above text requires the faculty member to “take action” in the face of wrongdoing. The action I take is to use the error as a learning opportunity. I do not want to be perceived as a slacker or be held to account for failure to enforce this principle in the strictest standard.

#### **Employee 4 Questions/Comments:**

The statement “. To be most beneficial to the student’s educational career, the student must enroll in the next available section.” Struck me as a bit odd in two ways. And since this seems to be one of the few major changes, I thought it was worth a comment or two.

First of all, why is this necessarily “most beneficial” for all students in all situations? Is there any research to support this assertion? Some students might benefit from time off to regroup or to mature or to take other classes first. Some students might not have the money to enroll immediately or it might not fit with work schedules.

Then there is “must enroll in the next available section”. What if the next available section is a night class that does not work well for the student? What if the next available section is online and the student prefers face to face? What if the next available section conflicts with a different course needed to graduate?

That sentence just seems overly prescriptive, and that some flexibility is required. Perhaps something like “enroll at the soonest reasonable time, as determined through a meeting of the

student, the advisor, and the VP of instruction". Or "the student may request a later section, which must be approved by the advisor and the VP of Instruction."