

**Rutgers University Senate**  
**Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee**  
**Response to Charge S-0905**  
**April 2010**

*Charge S-0905, Academic Integrity Policy: Consider and critique the draft permanent Academic Integrity Policy prepared by the Ad-hoc Academic Integrity Committee. Provide comments, criticisms, and suggestions for changes to the Ad-hoc Committee on an ongoing basis. Report to the Senate on progress on developing a new policy by March 2010.*

Committee Discussions

ASRAC discussed drafts of the Academic Integrity Policy at its meetings on December 4, 2009, January 29, 2010, and March 26, 2010 and offered a number of suggestions for changes, which were transmitted to the Ad-hoc Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) by ASRAC Co-Chair Martha Cotter, who is also the Chair of the AIC. Some of our suggestions have already been incorporated into the draft policy; others are under consideration by the AIC.

ASRAC strongly supports the AIC's stated goals in rewriting the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy; namely,

- to create academic integrity policies and procedures which are more transparent, less complex, less onerous for faculty, and more equitable for students.
- to give students a substantially increased role in and responsibility for the academic integrity policy and procedures.
- to foster a stronger culture of academic integrity on our campuses.

The Committee also supports the major changes to the Interim Policy proposed by the AIC; i.e.,

- introduction of an honor pledge
- introduction of the Honor Council, a student organization whose members will play a key role in educating the community about academic integrity as well as a number of roles in the administration of the academic integrity policy.
- reduction from four to two levels of academic integrity violations: separable and non-separable.
- expansion of the list of suggested sanctions for separable violations, including the introduction of the XF (disciplinary F) grade and addition of a number of sanctions appropriate to graduate and/or professional students.
- changes to the procedures for disciplinary hearings to give students a larger role, to make the process less onerous for faculty, and to provide the respondents with better advice and assistance.

Finally, ASRAC supports the retention of the procedures introduced in the Interim Policy for handling allegations of nonseparable violations of academic integrity by faculty members or Academic Integrity Facilitators. We will continue to work with the AIC as it revises the policy further

### Report on the AIC's Progress

The ad-hoc Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) consists of students, faculty members, staff members, and administrators from all three Rutgers campuses. It was appointed by Executive Vice President Furmanski in late 2008 and began work in February 2009. In late September, it presented a rough, incomplete first draft of the policy, which was discussed at the Conference on Academic Integrity held on October 2, 2009 in New Brunswick (a conference which also featured presentations on their respective academic integrity policies by faculty and staff from the University of Maryland and Penn State University). The first complete draft of the policy, dated January 25, 2010, has now been revised, based on community feedback received, and the latest draft, dated March 30, 2010, is available on the Academic integrity 2010 web site at (<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/sitelogin.jsp?site=1f52d487-7144-4432-88f9-034424582edc>), which also features a discussion board for providing feedback on the draft.. The AIC is continuing the process of gathering feedback from the university community. It plans to prepare another draft over the summer and to submit it to the Senate for approval in fall 2010. If approved, the new policy will go into effect in September 2011.

### Recommendation and Resolution

Despite the hard work of the AIC and the substantial progress made to date, a new academic integrity policy will clearly not be ready to go into effect in September 2010, when the Interim Policy is set to expire. ASRAC therefore strongly recommends that the Senate approve extending the Interim Academic Integrity Policy for one more year. We offer the following resolution to that end.

*Whereas*, the University Senate, on May 2, 2008, approved the adoption of the Interim Academic Integrity Policy for a period of two years, beginning September 1, 2008; and

*Whereas*, the Senate, at the same time, recommended the establishment of a new ad-hoc Academic Integrity Committee of students, faculty, and staff from all three Rutgers campuses to develop a new permanent academic integrity policy; and

*Whereas*, the Interim Policy has been successfully implemented, and there appears to be a broad consensus that the changes to academic integrity policies and procedures introduced in the Interim Policy should be retained in the new permanent AI Policy; and

*Whereas*, the ad-hoc Academic Integrity Committee, established in December 2008, has made very substantial progress on the development of a proposed new Academic Integrity Policy; and

*Whereas*, despite that progress, it is clear that a new academic integrity policy will not be ready to go into effect in September 2010, when the Interim Policy is set to expire;

*Therefore, be it resolved that* the Rutgers University Senate approves the continuation of the Interim Academic Integrity Policy for one more year, beginning September 1, 2010.

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