

**University Senate
University at Albany
State University of New York**

RESOLUTION ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Report of the Provosts' Task force on Academic Integrity does not propose a specific honor code, but rather urges us to consider adopting one. We do not believe that honor codes are intrinsically a threat to academic freedom. Therefore the issue at this stage does not fall within the narrow purview of the Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Information, and Community Responsibility (CAFFECOR). But before a specific honor code is proposed for adoption by the Senate it would be appropriate to refer the matter to CAFFECOR.

However in discussing the issues we find that we are unanimously predisposed against the adoption of an honor code, which we see as a distraction from the real issues (though not likely to threaten academic freedom). The availability of online resources has led to rampant use of such sources to write papers without proper citations. Writing has becoming an art of copying and pasting material from the web to cobble together papers. The committee feels policies on Academic Integrity and Honesty do need to be developed and improved, but that the institution of an Honor Code would not be an effective means to ensure academic integrity. In our view faculty need to play the major role in ensuring academic integrity.

Some specific suggestions made within CAFFECOR would be for exams and assignments to be created that discourage cheating. Questions which require the understanding of concepts should be used for assessment, as opposed to questions requiring memorization. Efforts should be taken to make students and faculty more aware of and involved in academic integrity policies and procedures. Enforcement of academic integrity violations should be improved. The reports of academic dishonesty should be acted upon seriously and in a consistent manner. To facilitate this, the reporting process should be streamlined. But none of these steps require an honor code.

Introduced by:

The Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility (CAFFECOR) on December 3, 2007