

RE: faculty Senate and OCR aka judicial affairs

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From "Fessler, Susanna" <sfessler@albany.edu>
Date 2011-11-16 16:41:18+00:00
To "Faerman; Sue R" <sfaerman@albany.edu>; "Cameron; Gail" <gcameron@albany.edu>
Cc "Malatesta; JoAnne M" <jmalatesta@albany.edu>
Subject RE: faculty Senate and OCR aka judicial affairs

Thanks for the reply, Sue. I had answered Greg independently, and should have copied you. I wrote:

From: greg nowell [<mailto:greg.nowell@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 10:32 AM

To: Cameron, Gail

Subject: faculty Senate and OCR aka judicial affairs

Dear Greg,

Gail passed your e-mail on to me. The short answer is that the Senate does not review the performance of any office on campus, including Judicial Affairs/Conflict Resolution. The longer answer goes in a couple directions:

First, there was a resolution two years ago in the Senate that the campus should establish a regular review of administrators and administrative offices. You can see a copy of that Resolution at http://www.albany.edu/senate/2009-2010_legislation.htm. It is at the bottom of the page, Resolution 0910-02. Progress on that has been slow but steady. Last year when I chaired GOV the task was delegated to Joette Steff-Mabry, who has put together an ad hoc committee to establish the parameters and charge of the Evaluation committee. I've moved on now out of GOV, so I can't speak in greater detail but I believe that GOV has had this as an agenda item a couple times already this year so it probably shows up in the minutes. You could ask Joette or Andi Lyons (chair of GOV this year) for details if you want.

But, I sort of think that this is not what your query was about. Academic dishonesty is not handled (at least initially) through Conflict Resolution really. It is handled through the Office of Undergraduate Education (Sue Faerman's Office). They have, in the past few years, formalized the process of reporting plagiarism. On their web site, <http://www.albany.edu/undergraduateeducation/>, on the left near the bottom is a link to the "Violation of Academic Integrity Report" form that professors are asked to fill out if they find such a violation. That report is, I believe, kept on file in that office. That way, if there are repeat offenders over the course of semesters with different professors, there is a clear record of the offenses.

The official statement on the Undergraduate Studies website reads:

Academic Dishonesty: This important matter is dealt with fully in the *Undergraduate Bulletin* and in other policy documents, which describe the main kinds of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, cheating, multiple submission, forgery, sabotage, falsification, unauthorized collaboration, and bribery. It is the student's responsibility to know and to adhere to appropriate standards of academic integrity. The Office for Undergraduate Education recommends that faculty announce explicitly, and indicate on their syllabi, the unvarying expectation of academic integrity.

The main facts are as follows:

- i. Reporting: All instructors **must** report in writing to the Office for Undergraduate Education every incident involving academic dishonesty by undergraduates and all sanctions they impose, along with a brief description of the offense.
- ii. Academic Penalties: Instructors have the right to impose appropriate academic (grade) sanctions for proven academic dishonesty. Such sanctions range from requiring resubmission of material, to a failing grade on an assignment, to a failing grade for the whole course.
- iii. Disciplinary Penalties: Instructors **may also** refer cases of academic dishonesty to the University Judicial System in lieu of, or in addition to, any academic penalties they impose through their course grades. Again, Clarence L. McNeill is the appropriate contact person. You can contact him or the Office for Undergraduate Education to discuss typical faculty practices in cases of academic dishonesty, as well as what appropriate sanctions for particular situations might be.

Now, as far as statistics, as you mention in your e-mail, I don't know if/how they are kept in both Conflict Resolution and the Office for Undergraduate Education. Clarence McNeil or Sue Faerman would probably be able to answer that question. As far as I know, no comparisons are made between our institution and other institutions. That's not the sort of data that any institution wants to share with outside institutions, so I suspect it would be very hard to acquire.

I hope that's somewhat informative--let me know if I can answer further questions.

[end of message]

All that said, I think this is a good opportunity, as you suggest, for us to think about how to be more efficient in the handling of cases between your office and the OCRCR. If there's something I can do to help facilitate the process, let me know.

Susanna

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From: Faerman, Sue R [<mailto:sfaerman@albany.edu>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 10:47 AM

To: Cameron, Gail; Fessler, Susanna

Cc: Malatesta, JoAnne M

Subject: RE: faculty Senate and OCR aka judicial affairs

Susanna and Gail,

To: Cameron, Gail

Subject: faculty Senate and OCR aka judicial affairs

Dear Gail:

I was wondering if the faculty senate has any authority to review the performance of what used to be called judicial affairs, now the office of conflict resolution. Sometimes I get the feeling there is no sheriff in Dodge City on matters of plagiarism and other aspects of student conduct, a feeling that has been expressed to me by peers in my department.

Of particular interest to me is whether the disposition of issues regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty--that is to say, the outcomes, the % of referred cases that actually lead to suspension for example--are handled in a manner consistent with practices at peer institutions.

Thanks,

Greg Nowell