

## **Request for an Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Honesty**

The Senate Executive Committee at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) convened ad hoc committees to review the academic honesty code in 2013-2014 and in 2014-2015. Select recommendations from those ad hoc committees warrant additional exploration concerning changes to the academic honesty code which will require review and approval by multiple governance entities.

This document outlines a proposal concerning membership for an ad hoc committee, scope for the work of the committee, and a recommended timeline for the work to be completed.

Membership (\* denotes current membership on the Academic Honesty Committee)

- Jari Willing, Ad Hoc Committee Chair (Assistant Professor, Arts and Sciences)\*
- Eric Anderson (Assistant Professor, Education and Human Development)\*
- Holden Ruck (Undergraduate Student)\*
- Jeanelle Sears (Assistant Professor, Health and Human Services)\*
- Marcus Sherrell, (Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences)
- Mary-Jon Ludy (Associate Dean, Graduate College)
- Ryan Holley (Assistant Teaching Professor, Schmidthorst College of Business)\*
- Sherrel McLafferty (Graduate Student)\*
- Stephanie Walls (Associate Dean, Firelands College)
- Chris Bullins, Ex-Officio Member (Academic Honesty Coordinator and Deputy Chief Well-Being Officer)

### Scope

Review the current academic honesty code and recommend any necessary changes to address:

- The current reality of potential academic misconduct given the proliferation of courses and academic assignments/examinations completed online, advancements in technology (e.g., ChatGPT, Chegg, and Course Hero) that are readily accessible by students, as well as the introduction and expansion of the College Credit Plus initiative.
- Alleged misconduct by students that involves forgery, threats, and/or bribery being concurrently investigated/adjudicated via the Code of Student Conduct.
- Evaluating how perceived/real differences in authority between students and instructors of record may affect the investigation and adjudication processes.
- Assess the evidentiary standard(s) upon which allegations of academic misconduct are based.
- Creating educational/developmental sanctions for academic misconduct.
- Problematic inconsistencies that can occur when the range of sanctions for first-time violations includes partial or no credit on assignments/examinations up to withdrawal from the course coupled with a WF/F grade.
- Whether facilitation of academic dishonesty by students not currently enrolled in the course should automatically result in suspension/dismissal/expulsion.
- Consider if suspensions/dismissals/expulsions should be permanently notated on students' academic transcripts to mirror the non-academic student conduct process.
- If students who appeal the outcome from an academic honesty case should be entitled to a hearing versus the Academic Honesty Committee voting on whether to grant one.
- The grounds on which appeals must be based, and the need for a second-level appeal to the provost.
- Existing legal concerns to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

## Timeline

- Ad hoc committee membership will be finalized in fall 2023.
- The committee will meet throughout fall 2023 and finalize recommendations for edits to the academic honesty code.
- The various governance entities (e.g., Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, and Undergraduate Council) will review the recommendations in spring 2024.
- The BGSU Board of Trustees will review the recommendations in summer or fall 2024.

## Constituent Feedback

- The Provost and Senior Vice President will receive monthly updates throughout the fall 2023 semester concerning the progress of the ad hoc committee.
- The work product created by the ad hoc committee will be shared in January 2024 with the BGSU Faculty Association, Graduate Student Senate, and Undergraduate Student Government for review and feedback.
- Starting in February 2024, the work product will be reviewed by the Committee on Academic Affairs, Committee on Amendments and Bylaws, as well as the Faculty Senate.
- Ideally, the Board of Trustees can take action on the recommended text edits in May or June 2024.