

Realize. It **starts**
with you.

May 25, 2017

Three Strikes and You're Out
Sharing a Practice
in Pursuit of
Academic Integrity

Three Strikes and You're Out!

Facilitator

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Binky, Binky's Putt Putt

Agenda

- Introductions
- A growing problem
- An imperfect process
- A quest for better results
- A little help here?

Introductions

- Associate Dean of the Faculty
 - Love being in the classroom
 - Thought I could make a more profound, lasting difference as an administrator
 - Far too busy investigating and handing out ‘outcomes’ for AM, not enough time reworking the program

Introductions

- Who else is in the room?
 - Instructor(s)
 - Researcher(s)
 - Administrator(s)
 - The Curious
- What brought you to this session?

A Growing Problem

- Ease of access to information/ubiquitous technology
- Desperation
- High degree of success-low discovery
- High Reward

A Growing Problem

- Ease of access to information/ubiquitous technology
 - Cut and paste plagiarism is one of the largest segments of my investigations
 - Cellphone access during exams is big too

A Growing Problem

- Desperation
 - Over 20% of students at the Hill School are international students
 - Many have scholarships to assist with triple tuition costs—and an expectation of achievement, regardless of how challenging
 - Some come from cultures with a different understanding/tolerance of/to plagiarism
 - Desperation may not be shared equally by domestic students

A Growing Problem

- High degree of success-low discovery
 - Several instructors have yet to report their first suspicion of AM
 - Some instructors highly reluctant to report suspicions
 - Evidence indicates much higher participation rate than our discovery rate

A Growing Problem

- High Reward
 - Poor achievement through the term places greater need on doing well in a few assessment pieces
 - 50% means you don't have to take a class again, but 65% average required to get degree

A Growing Problem

- First year (2013-14), in Associate Dean role I inherited a portfolio that had investigated 37 allegations
 - 2014-15 87 allegations
 - 2015-16 113 allegations
 - 2016-17 114 allegations

A Growing Problem

- Plagiarism more prevalent than cheating
- Inconsistent processes across campus
- Senior administration concern
 - No longer publishing list of offences
 - Increasing appeals

An Imperfect Process

- In-class presentation to all incoming Business students (and the others in the room)
- Presentation, data at Faculty Council
- Calendar description of cheating, plagiarism

An Imperfect Process

- Process, data shared at Faculty Council
 - 5.14.2.3 Procedure
 - Any academic or administrative member or official of the University who has reason to believe that academic misconduct has occurred shall immediately notify the relevant Dean, or his or her designate (the “Investigating Dean”). Where the academic misconduct occurs in connection with a particular course, the Dean or designate of the faculty offering the course shall be the Investigating Dean. For all other acts of academic misconduct, the Dean or designate of the student’s faculty or college shall be the Investigating Dean.

An Imperfect Process

- Calendar description of cheating, plagiarism
 - Cheating constitutes academic misconduct. Cheating is dishonest behaviour (or the attempt to behave dishonestly), usually in tests or examinations. It includes:

Cheating...

- unless explicitly authorized by the course instructor or examiner, using books, notes, diagrams, electronic devices, or any other aids during an examination, either in the examination room itself or when permitted to leave temporarily;
- copying from the work of other students;
- communicating with others during an examination to give or receive information, either in the examination room or outside it;
- consulting others on a take-home examination (unless authorized by the course instructor);
- commissioning or allowing another person to write an examination on one's behalf;
- not following the rules of an examination;
- using for personal advantage, or communicating to other students, advance knowledge of the content of an examination (for example, if permitted to write an examination early);
- altering answers on an assignment or examination that has been returned;
- and taking an examination out of the examination room if this has been forbidden.

An Imperfect Process

- Calendar description of cheating, plagiarism
 - Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty in which one person submits or presents the work of another person as his or her own, whether from intent to deceive, lack of understanding, or carelessness.

An Imperfect Process

- Instructors duty bound to report suspicions
- Associate Dean duty bound to investigate reports
 - Removes instructor from process
 - or at least it should!
 - Centralizes files, ensures uniformity

An Imperfect Process

- Letter sent to student informing them of the allegation, inviting them to participate, if they choose to, in the investigation
- Meet with student, evidence considered
- Reflection

An Imperfect Process

- Decision communicated
 - Found to have not committed
 - Not enough information for a finding of AM
 - Found to have committed AM
 - First Offence (Strike 1)—zero on the ‘thing’
 - Second Offence (Strike 2)—zero in the class
 - Third Offence (Strike 3)—expulsion from the University

An Imperfect Process

- Decision communicated to:
 - Student
 - University Secretary
 - Registrar
 - Instructor

An Imperfect Process

- Parties (students) have 30 days to appeal
 - Council Discipline Committee (Decisions here can be appealed by either party)
 - Senate Appeals Committee

An Imperfect Process

- **Grounds for Council Appeal**
- There is additional relevant information which was not considered at the faculty level;
- There was a problem in procedure at the faculty level;
- The substance of the case was not considered correctly at the faculty level. For example, relevant rules and regulations were
- applied incorrectly;
- Even if relevant rules and regulations were applied correctly, the resulting decision is unfair or unreasonable in the circumstances.

An Imperfect Process

- Grounds for Senate appeal
 - Decision manifestly unfair
 - Did not fully consider the evidence
- Process/chairs ensures students are heard, proper outcomes achieved
- Committees a mix of students, faculty, Deans (Senate appeal)

Why Three Strikes?

- Breach of trust
- AM does not occur as part of the product, it affects the entire product
- It did or didn't happen
 - No degrees to which it happened
- Penalty not mitigated by admission

Why These Three Strikes?

- Acknowledges campus policy of Progressive Discipline
- Expresses that this is a significant issue
- Ensures consistency

Very Few Repeat Visits!

- This is good, but what does it mean?
 - Increase in allegations is troubling
 - Not convinced that the initial investigation/outcome addresses the problem
 - Repeat visitors are no less emphatic of their ‘innocence’ or ignorance

Workshop Goals: Finding a process that..

- increases understanding among students and faculty
 - Knowing what AM is
 - Understanding the value of their investment in higher education
- decreases allegations
 - Not looking away, fewer actual occurrences

Workshop Goals: Allowing You to Help

- How do you do it differently/better
- How have you seen it done wrong
- Can you back that up?

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