Academic Integrity Task Force Update -- 2/25/2015

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Survey process update

The ICAI is now fully prepared to administer their survey. However, there’s a large PCC survey scheduled for this spring, and concern that the AI survey might contribute to survey fatigue and reduce participation. We have two options: make the survey our top recommendation and finish the task force report by June, or request an extension so that we can include the data from the survey. Until we have the survey data, we don’t have a complete picture of our current situation.

Therefore, we’d like to run the survey in late Fall term 2015. This gives us an opportunity to review the questions and ensure that our survey is tailored to our community. Rachel is working on detailed timelines; and we are asking the EAC for another extension so that we can incorporate the data collected by the survey.

Subcommittee Drafts:

● **Process:** Joe Fischer has taken the lead on this, and also distributed a proposal for using the Maxient database to track academic integrity cases. (Among others, Northern Illinois Univ. uses this approach.) This is strictly a process change -- not a policy change. We will want to route this to the DOI’s and DOS’s to get some feedback.

● **Tools:** Greg Kaminski reported on more research into TurnItIn and its use by peer institutions. In general, Turnitin is considered useful and valuable, but expensive. An informal estimate of the cost for PCC would be about one hundred thousand dollars per year; pricing is strictly by credit FTE, not by usage. OCCDLA is meeting to discuss a consortial subscription; Turnitin doesn’t seem to be enthusiastic about consortial discounts, and OCCDLA may be focusing on only credit distance learning students. Several PCC instructors pay for individual subscriptions out-of-pocket; a conversation with 2 of them reveals that they each discover 5-8 students per term who need to learn more about appropriately and ethically incorporating outside sources into their writing. If a Turnitin subscription is implemented, communication about how best to use it will need to be a priority.
As has been discussed before, Turnitin is a limited tool -- it doesn’t address situations in which a student sends another person to take a test, proctoring of tests, sharing of answers, etc. Our testing centers check ID when students take a test; some other proctors may not. This is an issue that was raised by the Distance Learning Task Force, and Andy Freed is looking into it from that angle.

- **Culture / Climate:** Two recent initiatives include introductions to academic integrity in student orientations: Panther Tracks and Virtual Backpack. Panther Tracks has a very brief mention, and is mostly concerned with warning students that misbehavior will be discovered and punished. Virtual Backpack uses a scenario-based quiz to help students understand common academic integrity issues, including navigating the line between studying together and collusion.

**Outreach:** meeting with faculty, staff and students. We have 15 minutes on the agenda of the District Student Council in order to introduce the project and begin to raise awareness of the survey; March 6 at RC. We will also ask a couple of students to volunteer to help refine the survey questions.

**Additional Information:** Several task force members (and others) have asked about the specific academic integrity issues included in the recent Distance Learning Task Force recommendations. Andy provided this list:

- Four - Distance Education department keep an eye on web-based technology solutions for online proctoring for future solutions.
- Five - A workgroup comprised of Distance Education department staff, members of the Distance Learning Faculty Advisory group, Testing Coordinators, the Registrar, and other key stakeholders develop guidelines for proctoring sites, procedures and standards.
- Fourteen - Distance Education will establish a work group with representation from faculty, division deans, Technology Solution Services, Deans of Students, Deans of Instruction, and Enrollment Services to research, what other institutions are doing to: 1) authenticate enrollment; 2) Research and assess student academic integrity; and 3) weigh the pros and cons of implementing systematic detection software. The work group will report its findings and make recommendations to the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and the Deans of Instruction for any needed improvements.
- Seventeen - It is the instructor’s primary responsibility to schedule and proctor in-person class exams, when required. In situations where students cannot attend
the class proctored exam time, referral to PCC Testing Centers for make-up exam proctoring is appropriate and should be supported by the college with adequate resources.

- Nineteen - Distance Education department explore online proctoring options and technology solutions supporting academic integrity and provide information to faculty on “tips” that reduce online cheating.