Meeting #8

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE (AIC)**

Monday March 7, 2016 (12:45-2:00) PC 238

***Minutes***

***Start Time: 12:50 PM End: 2:20 PM***

*Present:*

*Valerie George (Chair) Alan Gummerson Tom Breslin*

*Janie Valdes M.O. Thirunarayanan Stephanie Fajre (Graduate Student)*

*Ashley Medero Vanessa Zach*

*(Graduate Assistant to AI) (Undergraduates student-absent)*

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of agenda and additions to the agenda

3. Approval of the minutes from Feb 10th meeting

4. Invited guests:

* **M.O. Thirunarayanan** (College of Education)

*Dr. Thiru has started conducting research on the topic of predatory/contracting websites with one of his doctoral students and came to the AIC Meeting to share his preliminary research findings.*

5. Announcements:

* New AI Website

*The website is expected to launch in March 2016.*

*Action Item: Ashley will send the website’s link to all committee members so that they can provide feedback.*

* Annual Report Faculty Senate Presentation (April 12th)

*Action Item: AIC members will create a list of items that the Chair can present to the Faculty Senate.*

* Meeting with Dr. Elizabeth Bejar (March)

*Dr. George met with Dr. Bejar to discuss her experience at the IAIC’s Annual Conference in New Mexico.*

*Dr. Bejar is very supportive about cultivating AI at FIU and would like to have an AI event during the Fall 2016 term.*

*Action Item: Ashley and the student AIC members will discuss ideas for an AI event.*

6. Discussion:

* IAIC Annual Conference in New Mexico (February 18th – 21st)

*Dr. George shared her experience at the IAIC’s Annual Conference in New Mexico;*

*She felt that USF presentation on Commitment to Honor Program by Lynsey Mercer was the most informative. The program took two years to develop and requires that students complete a 10 module training course on AI and ethical decision making. There is also a Commitment to Honor Speech at every college event. Dr. George believes USF offers great examples for how the AIC can cultivate a culture of AI at FIU.*

*At the meeting, Dr. George joined an international committee whose goal is to create solutions to address contracting and predatory websites. Through her involvement with the committee, Dr. George has learned about the Pens for Hire documentary and the Masterminds predatory website- both are responsible for initiating discussion in Australia about these types of services.*

*Isis Carabajal De Garcia (University Counsel) is currently working on a Cease and Desist letter that will be distributed to various predatory/contracting websites.*

*Dr. George believes the field of AI is lacking research, especially in the areas of baseline and outcome data.*

*Dr. Breslin discussed a personal experience from college, in which he was required to complete a final comprehensive oral exam. The oral exam was administered by three examiners and lasted about an hour. Dr. Breslin believes this is something that can potentially be implemented at FIU.*

*Dr. Gummerson believes this might be too expensive.*

*Dr. George believes there are many factors that would need to be considered in order for this to be effective.*

*Dr. Breslin suggests students are randomly selected from various colleges/schools. Administrators can check students’ records to identify any discrepancies.*

*Dr. George mentioned how the IAIC publishes the number of misconducts and the type of sanctions applied. She believes this would be a good tool to promote a culture of AI.*

*Dr. George discussed a current Academic Misconduct case involving a graduate student. The student emailed the students in her class explaining that her friend was offering $150 for someone to write his paper. Dr. George met with the student earlier this week. The student didn’t understand why she was in trouble. Dr. George explained how this illustrates the cultural interface underlying AI and how it relates to her model, in that all individuals have their personal mission and values.*

*Dr. Gummerson talked about the cheating scandal in his class and how we noticed that the good students were the ones engaging in academic dishonesty, but they were doing it for the “greater good” and to “lift up their fellow man”.*

*Dr. Breslin thinks that the reason why good students are engaging in academic dishonesty may have to do with the emphasis on grades and GPA. He discussed how in commencement ceremonies, the President is signaling students who earned a 4.0. He thinks administration should ask themselves, “Are we helping the cause by not celebrating the honest people or people who achieved numerical perfections?”*

*Dr. Valdes discussed how it’s because of this reason that the World’s Ahead initiative was created. It’s not about GPA, but more about those students who struggled and serve as a reference for others.*

*Dr. Breslin thinks they should double down on World’s Ahead at the beginning (freshman convocation) and end (graduation) of students’ college years. He feels these stories will encourage students not to cheat because there is “glory” ahead.*

*Dr. Valdes believes these types of messages should be embedded throughout the students’ college years. So, “Why isn’t an email sent about the Honor Code after Freshman Convocation? She believes more information about integrity needs to be threaded into SLS and Ethics courses.*

*Action Item: Dr. George and Ashley will meet with Charlie Andrews March 24th about adding more content about integrity to SLS courses.*

*Dr. Breslin doesn’t think emphasis has been made with freshman coming in. He believes that FIU’s relationship between high school guidance counselors should improve and stress academic integrity.*

*Dr. George, “Is plagiarism misconduct or a pedagogical issue?”*

*Dr. George talked about how many people at the IAIC believe it is a pedagogocial issue.*

*Dr. George talked about how students from Engineering are getting answers from the Internet. Dr. George asked the committee to reflect on how 60% of cases are based on plagiarism. “How can we strategize to help faculty and students be more successful about not plagiarizing”*

*Dr. Breslin discussed an article in the Chronicle which highlights the problem with engineering. He believes engineering teachers should give random questions with no right answer to better assess students’ reasoning.*

*Dr. Thiru talked about how for his online course, students were asked to go to the FIU Website and read about plagiarism and Academic Integrity. Then he asked them to summarize what they had learned. He was shocked to learn that one of the students in his class plagiarized their answer. Dr. Thiru asked, “If 100 students are put in the same room and we examine their responses, will they be similar?”*

*Stephanie suggested that FIU require proctored exams for ALL their online courses.*

*Dr. George would like the AIC to identify 5-6 key focus items that she can presented to Faculty Senate. For example:*

* + - *Proctored exams for all online courses*
    - *Six module course on AI*
    - *Student AI event in the Fall 2016*
    - *Student leadership workshop*
    - *Marketing strategies*

*Stephanie suggested contacting the American Marketing Association, as they may be interested in helping with AI’s marketing campaign*.

*Action Item: Ashley will contact the American Marketing Association.*

*Two of Dr. Thiru’s doctoral students are interested in writing their thesis about the topic f AI, specifically predatory/contracting websites.*

*Dr. Thiru shared his preliminary research findings. The research was taken from a convenience sample of 114 students, the majority of which were Engineering and Computing students (95.6%). 64.9% of students said it was easier to cheat on online courses, 71.9% said online courses provide students with more opportunities to cheat and 64.9% said it was hardest to cheat in a face-to-face class.*

*Dr. Breslin suggested that Computer Science students might also be interested in researching about predatory websites.*

*Action Item: Dr. George will contact Pat McDermott-Wells to determine whether her students would be interested in this research area.*

*Dr. George asked, “What should happen if a student does not respond to an Informal Resolution? Should the case then go straight into a Formal Resolution?”*

*Dr. Valdes suggested placing a registration hold whenever students do not respond to charges. She suggested that Dr. George write an email, which explicitly states that a registration hold will be placed if the student does not respond to the charges. Dr. Valdes also suggested that the student’s academic advisor be copied to this email and that Dr. George follow-up with a phone call.*

*Dr. George asked, “Should a department’s policies on Academic Misconduct supersede the University’s policy?”*

*Dr. Breslin believes the tougher standard should prevail.*

*Action Item: Dr. George will propose revisions to the Policies and Procedures and send a copy to all committee members for feedback.*

Promotion - Action Plans

* New website with several different menus taps
* Marketing Input from External Relations - Where are we now?
* FIU Online Video
* Publicizing AI cases via FIU News - Ashley
* Academic Integrity Pledge
  + Print on Blue Books
  + Make template available to Faculty – ‘Resources’ on AI website
  + Requirement for Blackboard/FIU Online courses
* First Year Experience Courses - Meeting with Charlie Andrews (April)
* Tabling at FIU Events (i.e., Orientation, Freshman Convocation, Clubs/Organizations)
* AI Workshop for Student Organization Members

Student Involvement – How can we make this happen?

*Stephanie suggested creating an AI Student Taskforce similar to the Student Conduct Committee. The students involved would table at events, plan and host AI events, and participate in the Academic Conduct Review Board.*

*Action Item: Ashley and the student AIC members will share ideas on how they can create an AI Student Taskforce.*

*Dr. Breslin suggested contacting Pre-Law and Criminal Justice students, as they may be interested in AI.*

*Action Item: Ashley and the student AIC members will contact Pre-Law and Criminal Justice students to determine whether they’d be interested in helping our promotional efforts and joining the AIC Student Taskforce.*

*Next Meeting Time:*

*Wednesday, April 6, 2016*

*12:45 PM – 2:00, PC 238*

On-going discussion on priorities and action for the year - what is on the agenda next?

8 P’s

Provisions

Programs

Promotion

Prevention

Policies

Procedures - seating & scheduling 25

Pedagogy

Planning

* *What to do about creating a proctor pool?*

On-going discussion – how do we address plagiarism?

* Video for advisors, faculty, instructors, etc. to use to educate students about plagiarism. How can this video systematically be used to provide assistance and how to ensure that the video is being used and that it is helpful-almost need a little mini study to determine the effectiveness of this type of inoculation would be? Maybe we need a discussion with the advisors and Charlie
* How could the viewing of the video by faculty and students take precedent before seeing the class roster or registering for class-would this be a way to systematically ensure that faculty and students are reminded about plagiarism and students learn that they need to have proper citation at all times.
* The library-resources that are available and on-line tools to help students identify if they are plagiarizing and how to correct their errors.
* What can be added to the freshman experience to enhance their understanding of plagiarism?
* Formal Misconduct Policy – What is the rationale? Multiple offenses?
* Including a free, instructional video (i.e., Humber College) as part of the sanctions.

Next Meeting Time: April 6, 2016

Current Committee Members:

Valerie George (Chair) Alan Gummerson Tom Breslin

Janie Valdes Vanessa Zach Stephanie Fajre

*Thank you*!