



Department Name

# The Impact of Faculty Outreach on Academic Integrity Reporting

## Assessment Report

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**Choose One:** Learning Outcome Assessment

**Date of Assessment Implementation:** July 2011

**Date of Report:** August 2012

### Purpose of Assessment

Academic dishonesty is a serious violation of the Student Conduct Code. The Chancellor's Office set an expectation in EO 1006, that is now in EO 1073, that says: "Academic dishonesty cases that occur in the classroom shall be handled by faculty members according to applicable campus procedures. After action has been taken in any such case, the faculty member shall prepare an email that identifies the student who was found responsible, the general nature of the offense, the action taken, and a recommendation as to whether or not disciplinary action should be considered." (EO 1073, Article III, Section K). At Cal Poly Pomona, the Judicial Affairs Office is the location faculty should send this information. This allows Judicial Affairs to be the campus's central keeper of information pertaining to academic dishonesty, to notice trends, and to set norms for disciplinary outcomes associated with academic dishonesty cases.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, Judicial Affairs increased its outreach efforts to inform faculty about the Chancellor's Office expectations. Faculty were educated about proper reporting practices and about the student disciplinary process. The intention of educating faculty about these practices and processes was to become aligned with the Chancellor's Office expectations, to reduce under-reporting of academic dishonesty, and to hold students accountable for violating campus academic integrity standards.

**Division Learning Outcome** Professionalism & Ethics

### Targeted Learning Outcome

Faculty will learn how to report academic dishonesty to a central location.

### Assessment Methodology

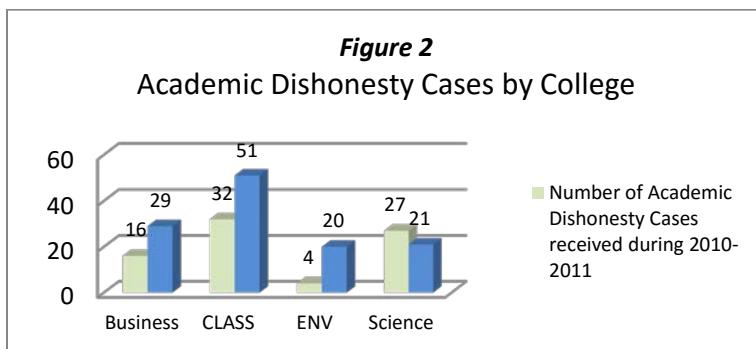
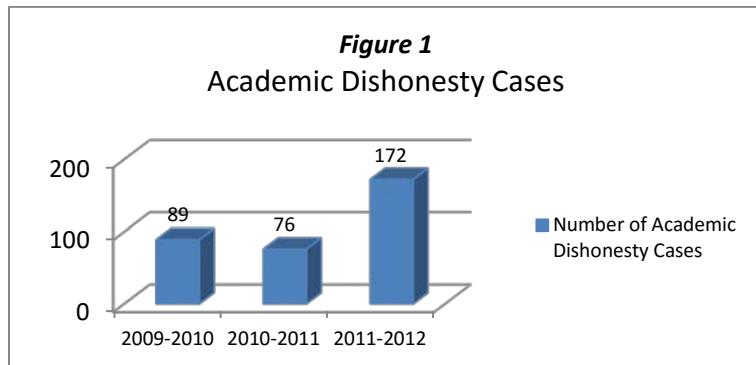
Judicial Affairs employed two methods to increase the education of faculty to achieve the learning outcome; a passive method and an active method.

Method One: The first method was passive. In this method, Judicial Affairs distributed a faculty-wide flier at the time of Fall Conference in September 2011. The faculty-wide flier included information that explained the expectation from the Chancellor's Office and showed instructions, through pictures and words, that described how to report academic dishonesty through Judicial Affairs' new online reporting tool. Approximately 1665 fliers were printed and distributed through campus distribution to all faculty, including deans and department chairs.

Method Two: The second method was active. In this method, Judicial Affairs presented information to faculty groups and academic departments. The presentations were to the following places: New Faculty Orientation, International Business Department, Music Department, Science Department TA's, and quarterly presentations through University Library that were open to all faculty. The content of the presentations included how to report academic dishonesty, what leads to academic dishonesty, and how to minimize academic dishonesty in the classroom. Each presentation lasted approximately one hour and faculty were encouraged to engage in dialogue on the topic.

## Results

The outcome from the two methods showed an increase in reported academic dishonesty cases. Figure One shows the number of reported academic dishonesty cases for 2009-2010 was 89, for 2010-2011 was 76, and for 2011-2012 was 172. Figure Two further shows these results and focuses on the differences reported between 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. During that time, there was no significant increase in reporting from the College of Science, despite a presentation to TA's. There was, however, a significant increase in reporting from the College of Business (from 16 reported cases to 29) and from the College of Letters Arts and Social Science (from 32 reported cases to 51). Departments in both the College of Business and CLASS received presentations about academic dishonesty. There was also a significant increase in reporting from the College of Environmental Design (from 4 reported cases to 20). This may be due to faculty who attended new faculty orientation, open presentations through the University Library, or there may have been an overall increase in academic dishonesty cases.



## Conclusion

The conclusion that can be drawn from the results is that increased advertising and outreach to faculty improved the overall reporting of academic dishonesty cases. The number of academic dishonesty cases reported in prior years remained fairly consistent, at 89 (2009-2010) and 76 (2010-2011). The increase in the number of reported cases in 2011-2012 to 172 is a significant increase. This cause and effect is inconclusive, however, as there may be mitigating circumstances that were not tracked that account for an increase in reported academic dishonesty cases. For example, it is possible that the campus experienced a spike in academic dishonesty cases or that academic dishonesty became more prevalent in classes making it more likely for faculty to report it. These mitigating circumstances are speculative and there is no evidence, at this time, to account for the increase in reported academic dishonesty cases other than the increased advertising and outreach to faculty.

## Implications for Practice

It is a reasonable conclusion that advertising and outreach to faculty improved reporting of academic dishonesty. Therefore, these efforts should be maintained and increased if time and staffing allows. Judicial Affairs is not seeking to overburden itself with an inordinate number of cases, but Judicial Affairs is obliged to hold students accountable for academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is a serious violation of the Student Conduct Code. Academic dishonesty impacts the reputation of both the student and the University. Remaining focused on the issue of properly reporting academic dishonesty and educating faculty about how to reduce academic dishonesty is a value of Judicial Affairs and a goal the office will continue to pursue.