

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
HONOR & INTEGRITY SYSTEM  
Annual Report to Provost, Faculty Senate and Student Senate  
2014-2015**



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August 14, 2015

**Executive Summary**

Reporters (faculty, instructors, GTAs, etc.) submitted 157 Honor Code Violation Reports to the Kansas State University Honor & Integrity System (as of August 12). There were 190 students that were reported. Thirty-eight Honor Council hearing panels were convened to determine if a violation had occurred and, if appropriate, what the sanctions should be. Plagiarism was the most frequent violation (43% of cases) and XF was a sanction for 17% of the violators. Forty-two educational presentations were made to over 3,000 students and about 150 faculty or staff. Ninety-five students completed the Development and Integrity course.

## Introduction

The purpose of the Honor and Integrity System is to promote academic integrity as a standard of expectation within the university community. With this purpose in mind, the system seeks to promote academic integrity through both education and adjudication. Article VI of the Honor & Integrity System Constitution requires the Director to provide a report to Student Senate, Faculty Senate and the Provost annually. This report summarizes the activities of the Honor and Integrity System for the 2014/2015 academic year as well as provide a report of the system changes and administrative activities of the Director, Associate Director and Honor Council during the reporting period.

## Cases Reported

The Honor and Integrity System processed 157 Honor Pledge Violation Reports (August 12) including 34 cases that are currently still open (Fig. 1, Table 1). Please note, the data presented reflect only the violations officially reported to the system. These data do not include informal consultation with faculty regarding violations not reported, nor does the data reflect instances discovered by faculty who choose to handle the violation themselves. It should also be noted, Kansas State University does not have a mandatory reporting policy for academic dishonesty. However, faculty should report violations which result in an academic sanction which adversely impacts the student's grade. The Honor and Integrity System has established procedures by which students may contest allegations of dishonest conduct which is not available to them otherwise. Also, students with repeated violations in various courses would be held more accountable through the Honor and Integrity System university-wide unit.

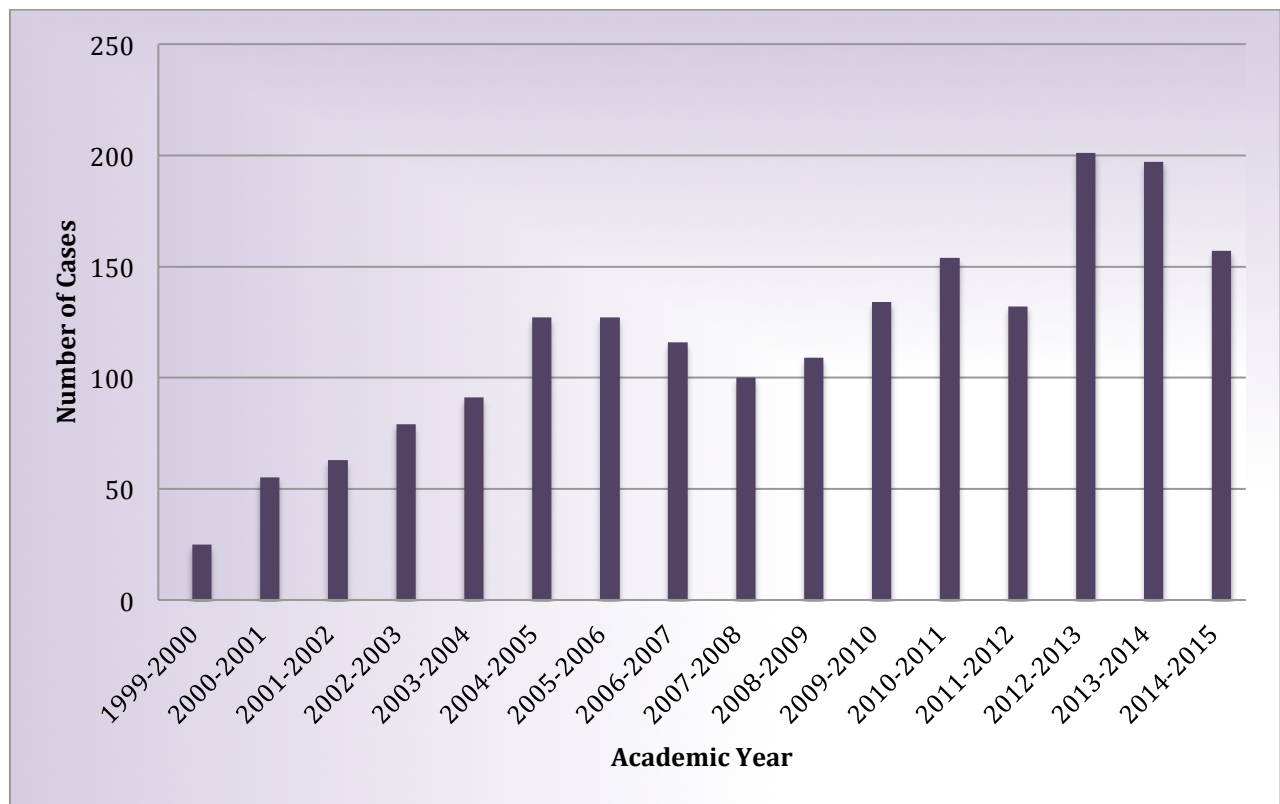


Figure 1. Total number of Honor Pledge alleged violations (cases) per academic year.

During the reporting period (still in progress), 190 students were alleged to have committed Honor Code violations (Table 1). Cases are frequently reported in which multiple violators are named as having violated together the academic integrity standards of the university. The number of cases we process is a function of many factors: faculty deciding to report incidences to our office, faculty identifying Honor Pledge violations, sometimes many students are associated with one case, and the number of violations that have occurred. We hear of many different situations that are not reported; for example, copied homework, plagiarism, and cheating on an exam. Its hard to estimate how many Honor Code violations are not reported, or how many go undetected.

Table 1. Number of cases and students reported per academic year.

Academic Year	Cases	Students
1999-2000	25	33
2000-2001	55	91
2001-2002	63	103
2002-2003	79	104
2003-2004	91	232
2004-2005	127	162
2005-2006	127	170
2006-2007	116	150
2007-2008	100	127
2008-2009	109	123
2009-2010	134	181
2010-2011	154	188
2011-2012	132	166
2012-2013	207	265
2013-2014	197	285
*2014-2015	157	190

\*In Progress.

Reporters that are the primary instructor for the course where the violation occurred have the authority to determine what the appropriate sanctions are for violating the Honor Code (Option 1 on Violation Report). Reporters can also request the Honor and Integrity System to determine if the Honor Pledge had been violated, and also determine appropriate sanctions (Option 2). Reporters determined the sanctions for about 90% of the submitted Violation Reports. About 94% of all reported students do not contest the violation report or are found responsible by an Honor Council panel (Fig. 2). About 6% of the students reported are found not responsible by an Honor Council panel (Fig. 2). A common key reason for a not responsible decision was unclear information in the course syllabus on what extent of collaboration was allowed.

### **Alleged Violator Demographics**

Alleged violators were fairly evenly distributed between undergraduate classes (Fig. 3). There were 7 graduate students (on-campus and distance students) involved with reported cases.

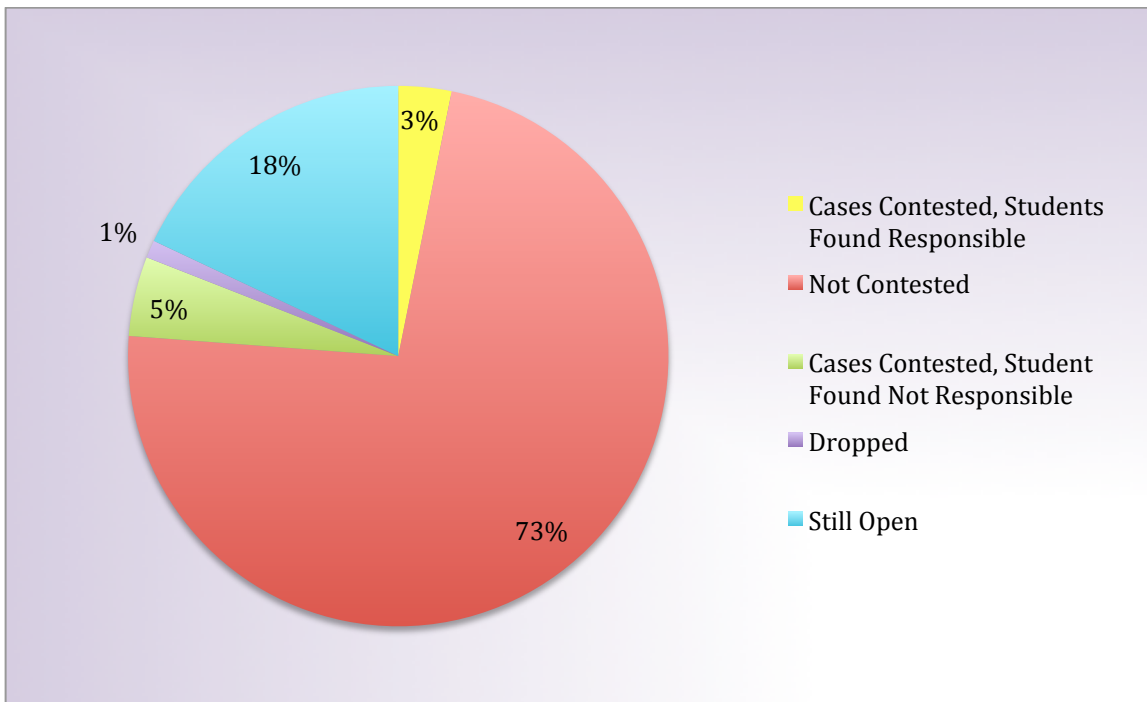


Figure 2. Information about percentage of cases contested compared to not contested.

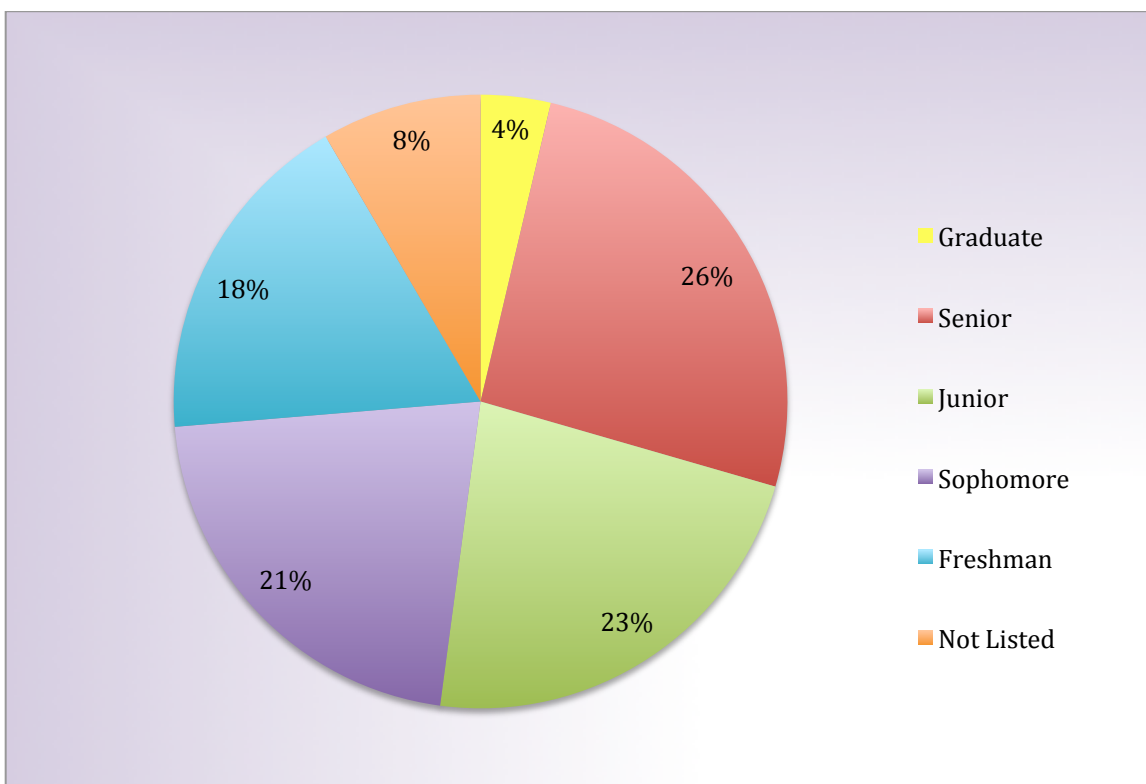


Figure 3. Breakdown of alleged violator's class.

### Faculty Demographics

Reports were received from all levels of teaching personnel (Fig. 4). Tenure track faculty constituted 49% of the violation reports received while instructors and Graduate Teaching Assistants accounted for 37%.

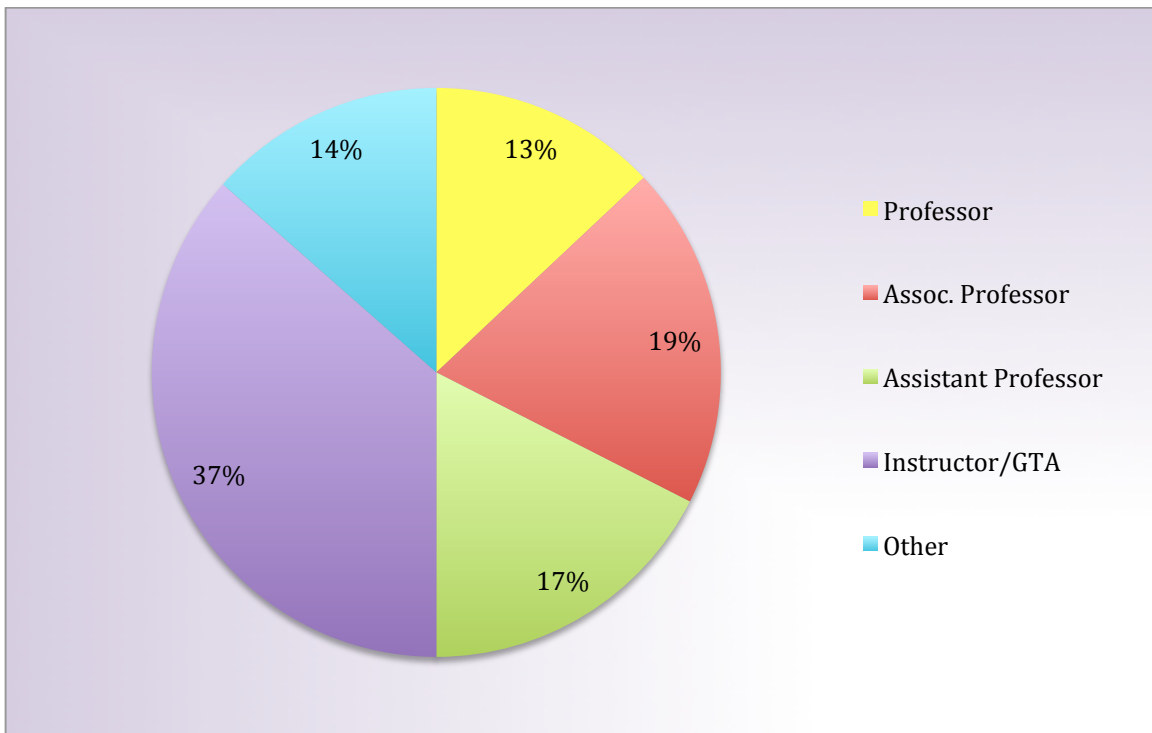


Figure 4: Breakdown of reporter's position at Kansas State University.

### Details about Violations

Most violations were students conducting plagiarism (Fig. 5). Students giving or receiving answers from others was another common violation.

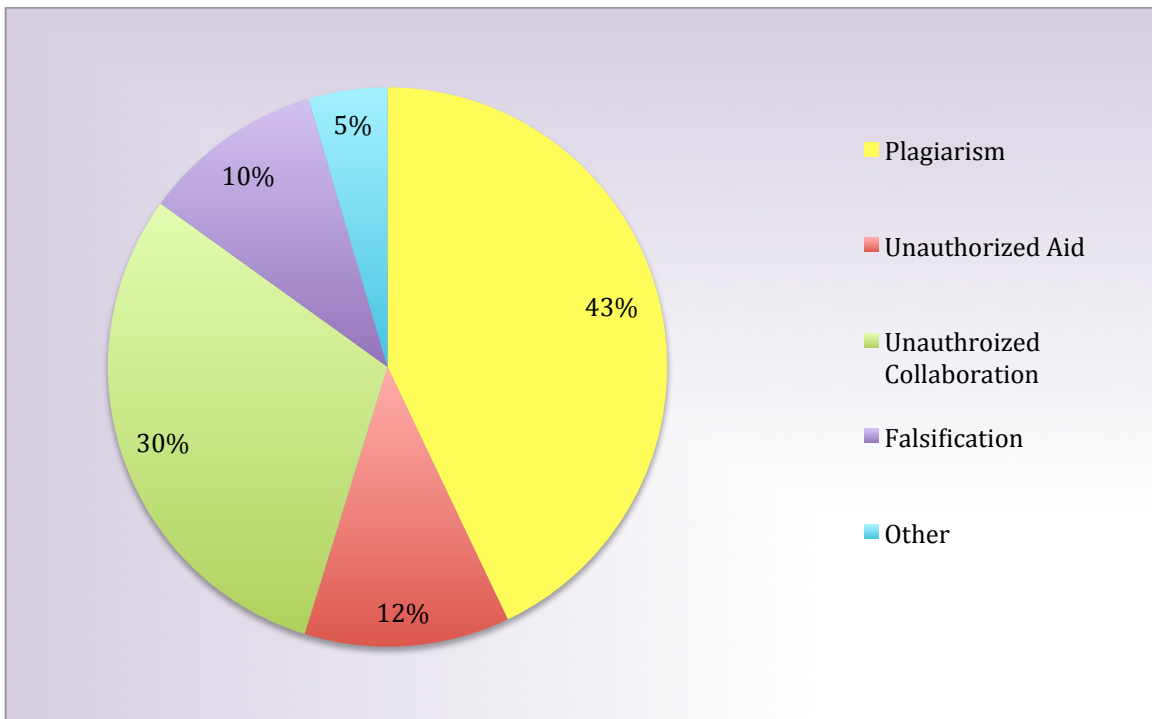


Figure 5. Breakdown on alleged violations. (Plagiarism: Copying the work of others and presenting it as original. Unauthorized collaboration: Giving or receiving answers. Unauthorized Aid: Consulting unapproved resources. Falsification: Submitting work under false pretenses.)

## Details about Sanctions

Sanctions issued by reporters ranged from an XF to a verbal warning (Fig. 6). The most common sanction was EDCEP 502 Development & Integrity course that Dr. Camilla Roberts teaches.

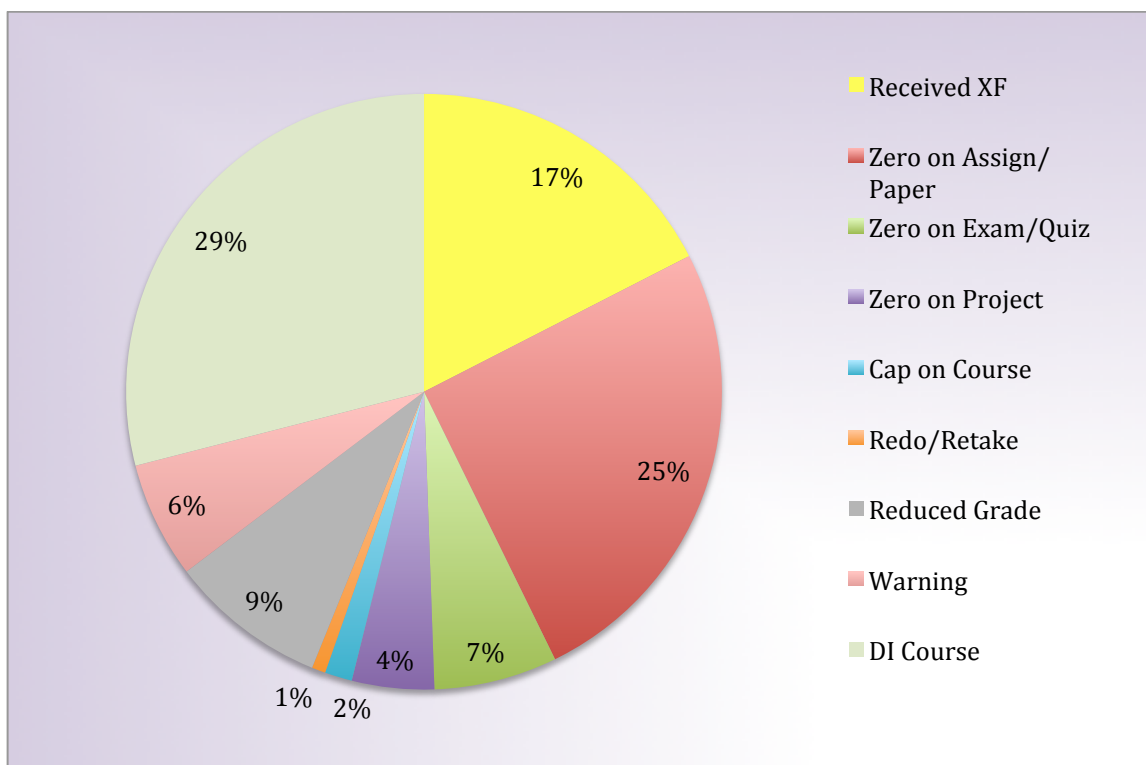


Figure 6. Breakdown of sanctions. An alleged violator may receive more than one sanction. For example, requiring the Development and Integrity Course and issuing an XF are commonly given together.

## Multiple Violations

There were 16 students that had previously been reported to the Honor and Integrity System. These students were required to appear before a hearing panel to determine if further sanctions were needed (Additional Sanctioning Hearing). Almost all of these students received additional sanctions because of having violated the Honor Pledge multiple times. The most severe sanction totals issued mostly to multiple violators were: permanent XF grades: 6, expulsion by Provost: 0, suspension by Provost: 1). In addition to these severe sanctions, 42 hours of permanent XF grades were issued during the Fall, 2014 semester for a case from Spring 2014 (see Fabrication of Research Data section below for details). The student from the Spring 2014 case was also expelled.

## Examples of Unusual Cases

### Fabrication of Research Data

A Ph.D. student had successfully completed his/her dissertation defense, and in the days that followed made a statement of having a master's degree from another prestigious university. A Professor very familiar with the student was surprised and decided to follow up with Registrar's office to determine if it was true. This began a long process of determining previously accepted "facts" were actually falsified or fabricated.

In the end, the following Honor Code violations were determined:

- Falsified that other degrees had been earned,
- Fabricated diplomas from other universities,
- Falsified information in IRB application,
- Falsified and fabricated research data,
- Repeatedly lied to major advisor and graduate committee regarding research activities, and
- Plagiarized large sections of dissertation from undisclosed references.

The student denied any academic misconduct, and he/she claimed his/her work schedule prevented participation in the Honor Council hearing where these decision were made. The following sanctions were imposed by the Honor Council hearing panel, Dr. Steve Starrett and Provost April Mason:

- 42 hrs of XF grades (all Ph.D. research hours),
- Revocation of Ph.D.,
- Expelled from Kansas State University, and
- Revocation of an award.

#### Student From Another University Assisted Student to Cheat While Taking Exam

A friend of a Kansas State University student was visiting Manhattan. The friend sat between two Kansas State University students and copied answers from one so the other could see. There were two exam versions and they were handed out in an alternate pattern, so that caused the need for the extra assistance. The sanction for student receiving the help was an XF. The student that was seemingly giving aid contested the allegation that he/she was involved in scheme. He/she was found responsible by an Honor Council hearing panel. The sanction for the student providing the help was a zero on the exam and EDCEP 502.

#### Student Claims Another Student's Exam

A student developed a process to cheat on numerous exams. He/she would sit for an exam in a big class, he/she would not turn in the exam and when the exams were returned he/she would retrieve an exam with a high score. He/she would erase the original name on the exam and put his/her name on exam. The student would then complain that his/her exam score of zero was recorded in error because he/she claimed to have taken the exam and then he/she produce the stolen exam. Shortly after this the original student would complain that his/her exam was never returned. The Professor became suspicions and ended up scanning in every exam, every assignment, before returning and when this same situation happened on the third exam, the original exam with the original test taker was found in the scanned files. The student was suspended from Kansas State University for one year and received an XF in the course.

#### Plagiarism Reported in Another Professor's Course

A Professor reported that a graduate student had plagiarized work in a seminar course that the reporting Professor was not currently teaching. The Professor teaching the course disputed this claim. The student contested the allegations. An Honor Council hearing panel was convened, the Professor teaching the course participated, the Alleged Violator had another Professor serve as an advisor, and the Department Head observed the hearing. Several guests also waited outside the hearing to learn of the outcome. After about 5 hours of presentations, discussions, questions and answers, comments, and deliberation the Honor Council hearing panel decided the student had met the teaching Professor's expectations and requirements. The student was found Not Responsible.



### **Honor Council Hearing Panel Recommendations Not Accepted**

There were three Honor Council recommendations that were not accepted by the Director. Two were to recommend expulsion to the Provost, and the other was to recommend a one-year suspension to the Provost. The Director takes this responsibility very seriously, he often consulted with the Associate Director, Honor Council Chair and other wise counsel prior to making a decision to not accept an Honor Council hearing panel decision. The Director did not accept these specific recommendations because the sanctions were far more extreme than the normal range of sanctions issued by Kansas State University professors and instructors for similar Honor Code violations.

### **Educational Presentations**

From August, 2014 through July, 2015, the office conducted 42 presentations related to academic integrity and honesty. Through these 42 presentations, approximately 3000 students and 150 faculty/staff were informed of the Honor and Integrity System. These presentations ranged from 10-15 minutes to multiple hour workshops.

### **Development and Integrity Course**

During the fall 2014 semester, the Development and Integrity Course continued as an 8-week (meeting twice a week) course. During the first 8-week course, 8 students were enrolled in the face-to-face course offering. All students successfully completed the course. Fifteen additional students enrolled in and successfully completed the class during the second eight-weeks of the fall semester. During the second eight weeks, an online component was offered with 11 students (all completing) enrolled.

During the spring 2015 semester, 12 students enrolled during the first eight weeks (with all successfully completing) and 16 students were enrolled (all successfully completed) during the second eight weeks face-to-face courses. An additional 13 students enrolled (12 successfully completing: 1 W) in the online component during the second eight weeks of the semester. The summer session of the Development and Integrity class was delivered in an online format. Twenty students were enrolled in the class.

In summary, during the 2014-2015 academic year, 51 students enrolled in the face-to-face component while 44 enrolled in the online component.

### **Changes to Investigation and Adjudication Processes**

The new process of three Honor Council members serving on a Case Review Board has proven to be far more efficient and just as thorough as previous format. The removal of the Case Investigators has not caused any issues. The Honor Council continues to do a tremendous job serving on hearing panels and making tough decisions.

### **James R. Coffman Honor Council Award Recipients**

The Honor Council Awards have been recently updated and the following are the recipients:

2012-2013. Dr. Kerri Day-Keller (CES, Director). Kris Grinter (Family Stud. & Human Serv.)

2013-2014. Dr. James Teagarden (Spec. Ed. Couns. & Student Affairs). Josh Wilson (Poly. Sci.)

2014-2015. Dr. David Hartnett (Biology). Ph.D. candidate Jennifer Frederick (Grain Science)

**Other Activities**

The expansion of the Honor Council from 54 to 87 members has greatly reduced the time it takes to process a contested case or conduct an Additional Sanctioning Hearing. The workload per Honor Council member is much more reasonable as well.

Dr. Steve Dandaneau, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, conducted a thorough review of Dr. Starrett's accomplishments as the Director. Upon completion of the review, Dr. Starrett was reappointed as the Director of the Honor and Integrity System to another 3-year term.

Drs. Steve Starrett, Camilla Roberts, James Teagarden, Ms. Adrianna Gonzalez and Ms. Emily Mesker are in final stages of preparing a manuscript entitled, "Professional and Ethical Impacts from Serving on an Honor Council." Dr. Roberts attended the annual International Center for Academic Integrity conference. Dr. Roberts also plans to present a paper at the 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Educational Integrity in Australia.

**Future Activities**

Drs. Starrett and Roberts plan to continue usual activities: work with faculty and students on alleged violations, teach the Development and Integrity course, conduct hearings, and work with the Honor Council in reviewing operating guidelines. We also plan to visit many departments at both K-State campuses to have a brief update and refresher conversation about the Honor and Integrity System.