

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
HONOR & INTEGRITY SYSTEM
Annual Report to Provost, Faculty Senate and Student Senate
2015-2016**



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Executive Summary

Reporters (faculty, instructors, GTAs, etc.) submitted 297 Honor Code Violation Reports to the Kansas State University Honor & Integrity System (data from July 29 was used to generate this report. There were 309 cases as of August 20). There were 343 students that were reported. About 47 Honor Council hearing panels were convened to determine if a violation had occurred and, if appropriate, what the sanctions should be. Plagiarism (39%) and unauthorized collaboration (25%) remained to be the most frequent violations. An XF was a sanction for 11% of the violators. Fifty-one educational presentations were made to over 3,250 students and about 150 faculty or staff. One-hundred and five students completed the Development and Integrity course. Dr. James Teagarden, Associate Professor of Special Education, Counseling and Student Affairs, has become the Chair of the Honor Council.

Introduction

The primary 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 2015/2016 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 297 Honor Pledge Violation Reports (July 29) including dozens of 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 this university-wide unit.

This was nearly a 90% increase in violation reports compared to the previous year. Almost 70 cases were associated with an alleged unauthorized collaboration and/or unauthorized aid during a course final examination.

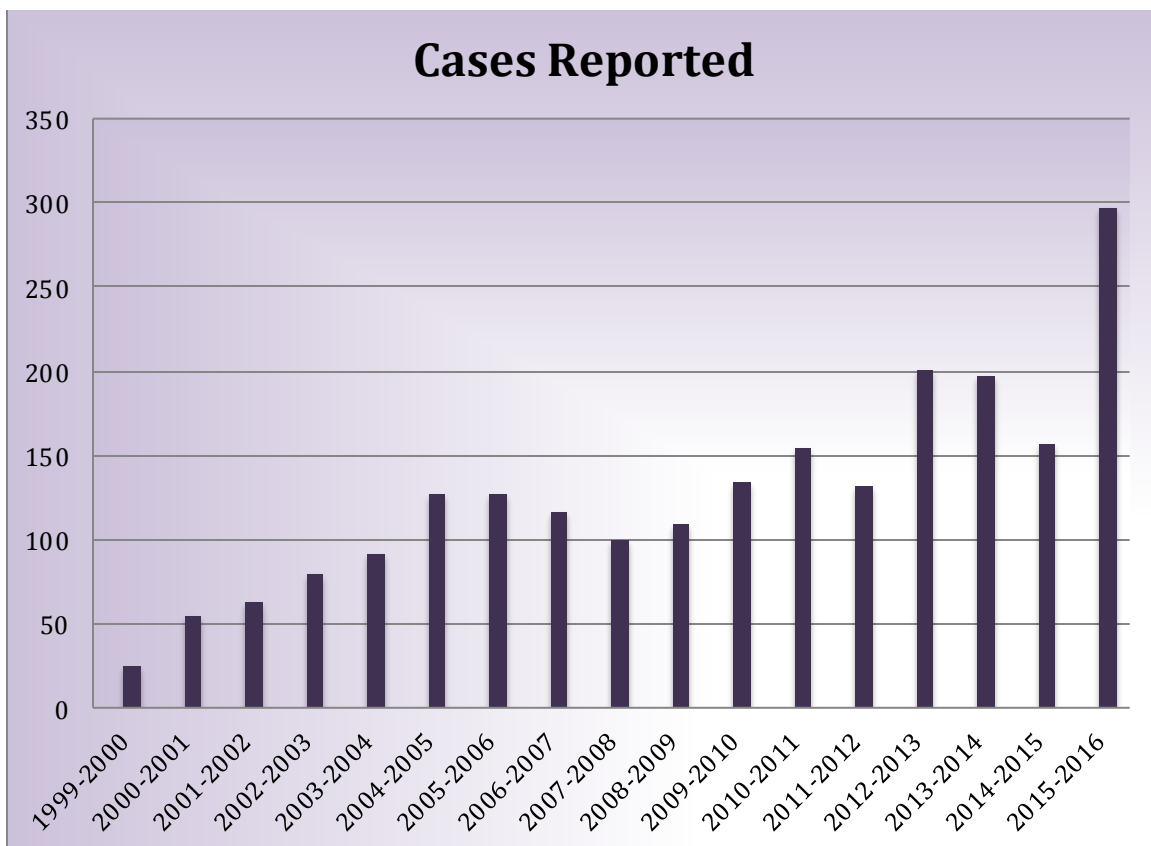


Figure 1. Total number of Honor Pledge alleged violations (cases) per academic year.

During the reporting period (still in progress), 343 students were alleged to have committed Honor Code violations (Table 1). This was an 80% increase over the previous year. 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 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
*2015-2016	297	343

*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 investigate situation, determine if 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 88% of all reported students do not contest the violation report or are found responsible by an Honor Council panel (Fig. 2). About 5% of the students reported are found not responsible by an Honor Council panel (Fig. 2). Some key reasons for a not responsible decision were: reporter placed to much value on readability scores of a report. Since the readability score was very high the reporter assumed the student(s) plagiarized material when in fact the readability score is extremely variable with even just punctuation changes.

Alleged Violator Demographics

Alleged violators were fairly evenly distributed between undergraduate classes (Fig. 3).

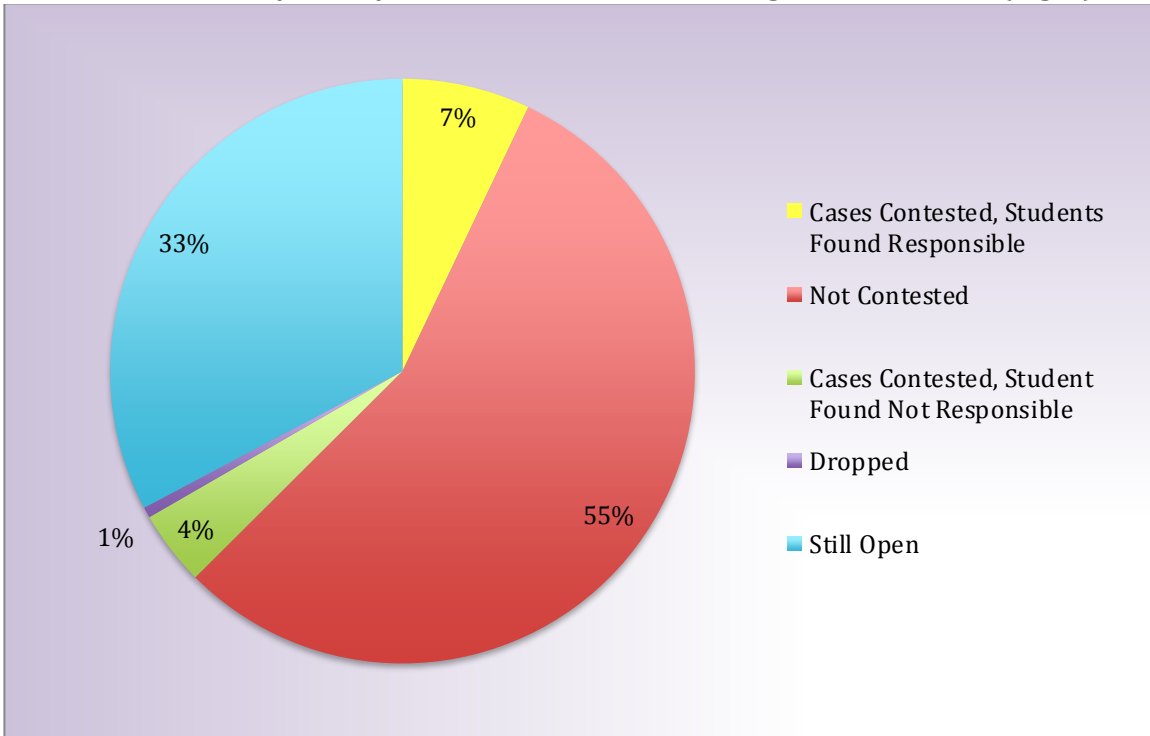


Figure 2. Information about percentage of cases contested compared to not contested.

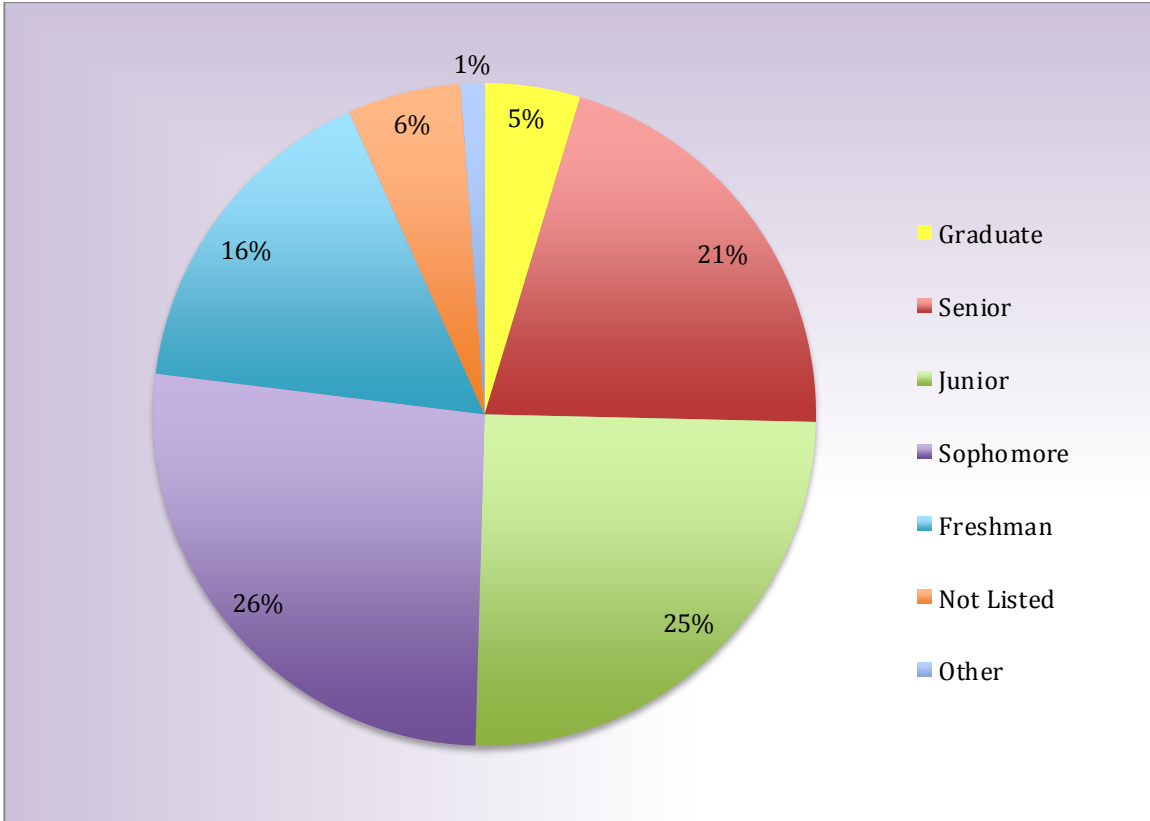


Figure 3. Breakdown of alleged violator's class.

Faculty Demographics

Reports were received from all levels of teaching personnel (Fig. 4). Tenure track faculty constituted over 50% of the violation reports received.

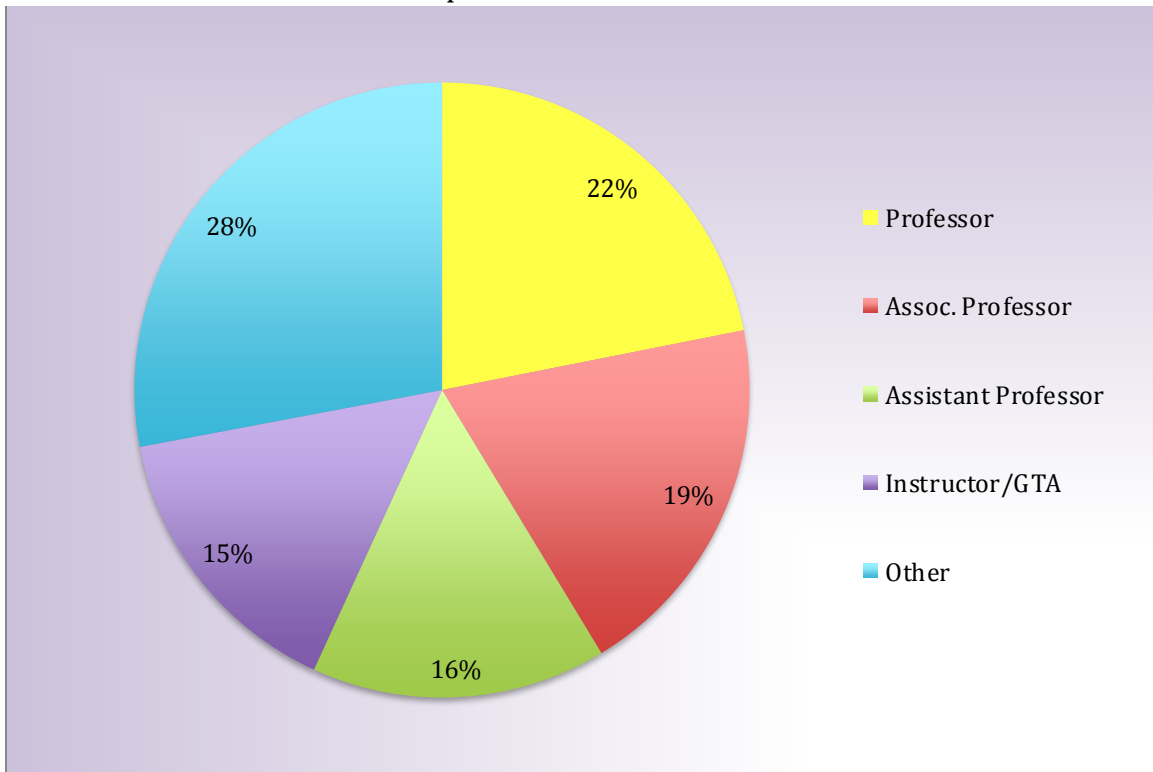


Figure 4: Breakdown of reporter's position at Kansas State University.

Details about Violations

Most violations were students conducting plagiarism or unauthorized collaboration (Fig. 5)..

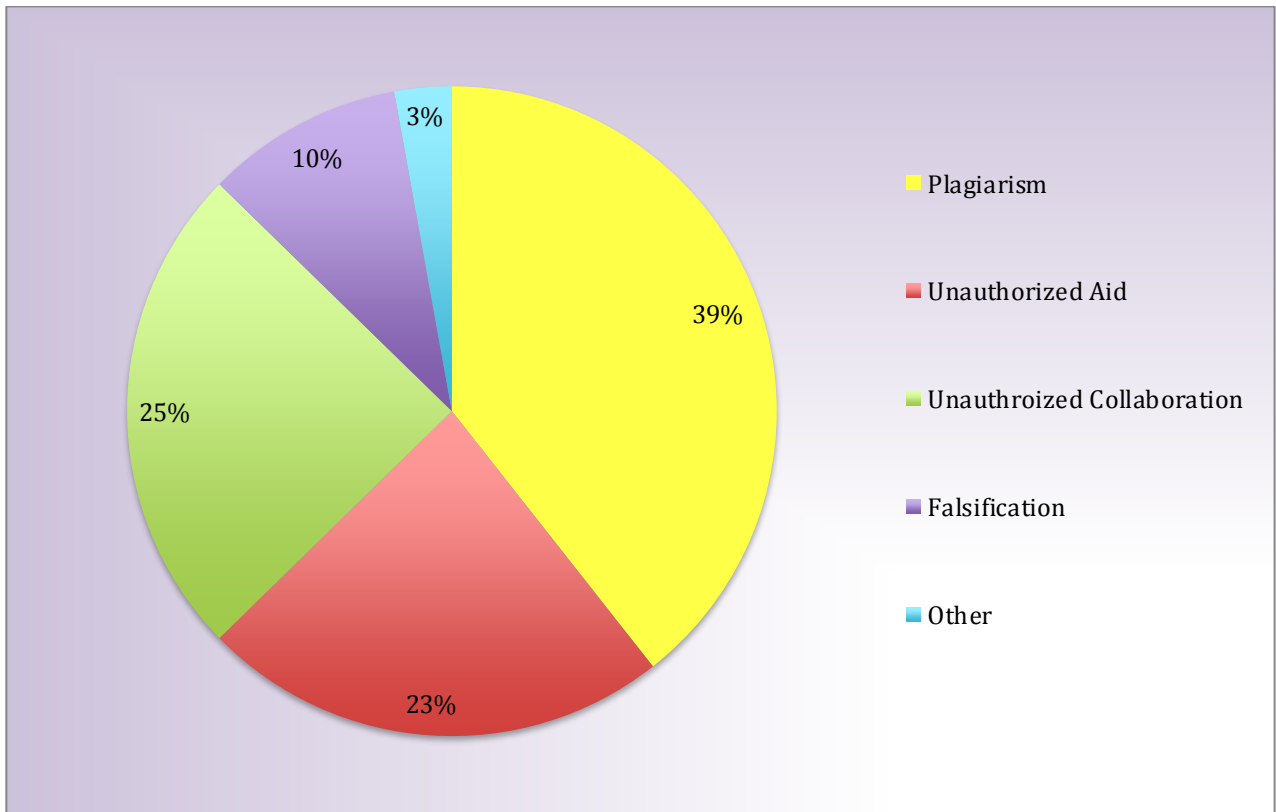


Figure 5. Breakdown on alleged violations. Plagiarism: Copying the work of others and presenting it as original. Unauthorized collaboration: Giving or receiving answers. Unauthorized Aid: Consulting unapproved resources. Falsification: Submitting work under false pretenses.

Details about Sanctions

Sanctions issued by reporters ranged from an XF to a verbal warning (Fig. 6).

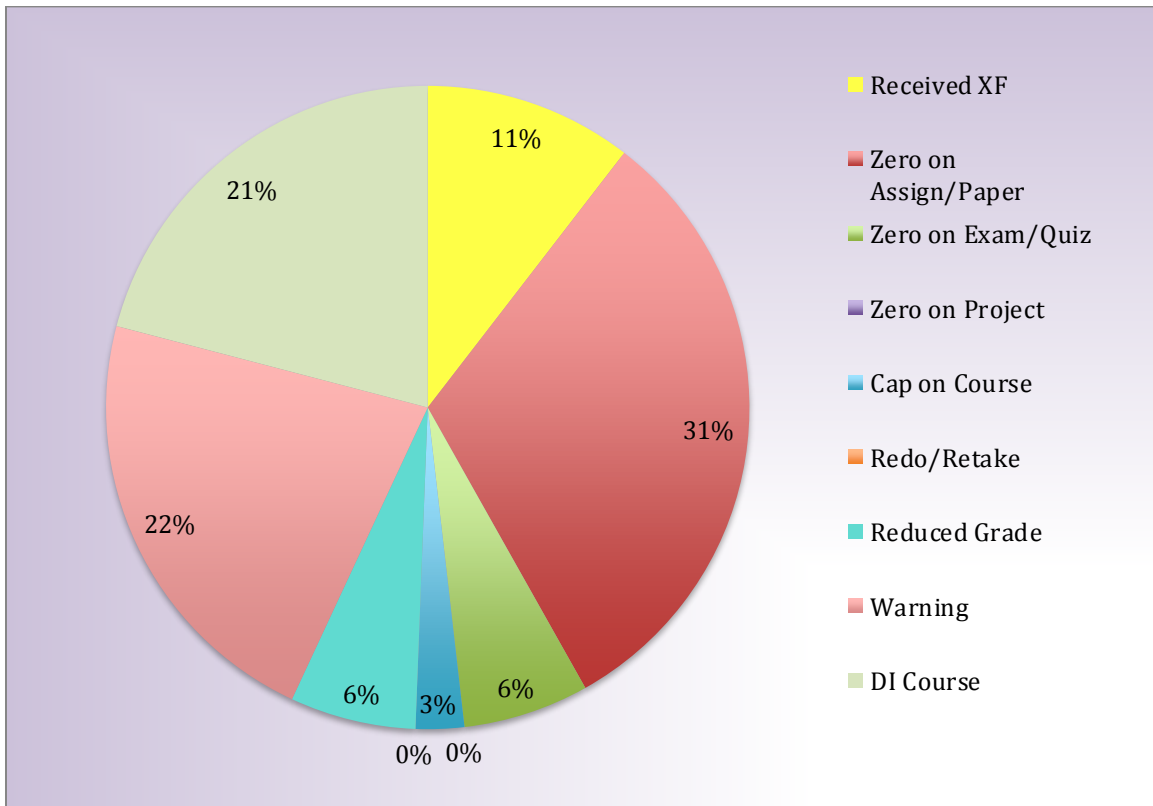


Figure 6. Breakdown of sanctions. An alleged violator may receive more than one sanction. For example, requiring the Development and Integrity Course and issuing an XF are commonly given together.

Multiple Violations

As of August 20 this data has not yet been determined. We expect the number of multiple violators to be similar to previous years (i.e., 10 to 15).

Examples of Unusual Cases

Here are just 2 unusual cases. We could write a book about all the unusual and extreme situations that are reported each year.

Graduate Claimed Different Degree

A degree verification company contacted Kansas State University to confirm a degree of a graduate. The graduate had applied for a new job. The graduate claimed to have a graduate degree in education when in fact he had graduated with an undergraduate agricultural degree. Upon further investigation it was determined that the graduate had additional false information on his/her LinkedIn profile. A hearing was conducted, the Honor Council panel did an outstanding job determining the facts and untangling the web of lies that had been given to us by the graduate. Ultimately, the graduate was expelled from Kansas State University.

Mass Cheating During a Final Exam

About 70 students were reported to have cheated on a final exam. A few students came to us soon after the final to describe what they wondered was an experiment on human behavior. An instructor handed out the final, asked students to leave exam face down. He/she became ill and left the room. The students moved together, worked in groups, called out what they thought were the

answers to each other. The students returned to their original seats prior to the instructor returning to the examination. Student were issued a warning. This case is still on going with some students contesting the alleged violation report.

Honor Council Hearing Recommendations Not Accepted

Recently, Dr. Starrett overturned an Honor Council hearing panel decision of responsible. Substantially new information was submitted in an appeal by the alleged violator, Dr. Starrett confirmed the new information was accurate with a professor and staff member. Dr. Starrett also consulted with a member of the hearing panel before deciding to overturn the decision. This was the first time in four-years that Dr. Starrett accepted an appeal and overturned an Honor Council hearing panel decision of responsible.

Educational Presentations

From August, 2015 through July, 2016, the office conducted 51 presentations related to academic integrity and honesty. Through these 51 presentations, approximately 3250 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 2015 semester, the Development and Integrity Course continued as an 8 week (meeting twice a week) course. There were not enough students enrolled to hold the course face to face during the first 8-weeks of the semester. During the second 8-week course, 17 students were enrolled in the face-to-face course offering. Two students withdrew from the course without a final grade, but the other 15 successfully completed the course. Nine additional students enrolled in and successfully completed the online class during the second eight-weeks of the fall semester.

During the spring 2016 semester, 6 students enrolled during the first eight weeks (with all successfully completing) and 12 students were enrolled (all successfully completed) during the second eight weeks face-to-face course. An additional 13 students enrolled and completed 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, meeting every day online from May 16-June 3, 2016. Thirty-nine students were enrolled in the class. Thirty-eight successfully completed the class. Dr. Roberts submitted and honor pledge violation against the one student for falsification.

In summary, during the 2015-2016 academic year, 44 students enrolled in the face-to-face component while 61 enrolled in the online component. Compared to the previous years of 51 students enrolled in the face-to-face component while 44 enrolled in the online in 2014-2015.

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 Honor Council continues to do a tremendous job serving on hearing panels and making tough decisions.

James R. Coffman Honor Council Award Recipients

The 2015-2016 Honor Council Awards have not been finalized yet.

Honor Council

Professor Adrianna Gonzalez completed two-years as the Chair of the Honor Council. She did a tremendous job and we greatly appreciated her efforts, time and passion for academic integrity. Dr. James Teagarden, Associate Professor of Special Education, Counseling and Student Affairs, has become the new Chair of the Honor Council. Dr. Teagarden has the most experience serving on the Honor Council as any faculty member at Kansas State University. We are very grateful that he is willing to step into this leadership role for the Kansas State University community.

The Honor Council has been expanded from about 50 to about 80 members. This has greatly helped with efficiency and for spreading out the case load.

Other Activities

Dr. Roberts presented research regarding perspectives of Honor Code violations by Honor Council member at the 7th 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 are also interested in studying the following topics, if time allows:

1. What accounted for this year's spike in violations?
2. Is this expected to continue into the future?
3. What kind of help from outside the Honor and Integrity System and Honor Council might help reduce alleged Honor Code violations?
4. Can we partner with Student Life professionals to renew our educational efforts around these issues?
5. Are there steps that could be taken to further educate and encourage instructors to adopt the best course designs and pedagogies to reduce alleged Honor Code violations?
6. What progress is being made on translating the Honor Code into foreign languages?