

We continue a series recounting what a number of readers have characterized as misconduct and stupidity of past and current University of Southern Mississippi faculty and administrators. The facts underlying these conclusions have been fully documented. When one reader suggested this series, he opined “before someone comes to Southern Miss as a student or puts a career on the line as faculty member, “Ethics, Power and Academic Corruption” should be required reading.” The seventh installment follows. (See, the [first](#), [second](#), [third](#), [fourth](#), [fifth](#) and [sixth](#) installments here.)

## The College Expert

In an email, colleagues asked for advice of Marketing Professor Laurie Babin who had schooled faculty on detecting student plagiarism and chaired the committee tasked with writing the College’s Academic Integrity Policy to be submitted to the AACSB in compliance with maintenance of accreditation:

If our recollection is accurate, you were involved in the College of Business’s development of the Academic Integrity Policy. You were especially concerned with plagiarism. What should you do when you learn of evidence of faculty plagiarism?

Professor Babin answered, “I don’t know. The policy was written with regard to students.” In a follow-up email, colleagues reminded her of what the introduction to the Academic Integrity Policy said:

The students, **faculty ... and administrators** of the College of Business (CoB) recognize that honesty and integrity are fundamental expectations in the academic and business communities. Accordingly, we hereby establish this Policy to be adhered to **by all CoB administrators, faculty, and students**. (Emphasis added.)

(<http://www.usm.edu/business/academic-integrity-policy>. Last accessed June 2011.)

The Policy is explicit about dishonesty and plagiarism.

Academic dishonesty can take many forms, but not limited to...Plagiarism (copying words, concepts, or ideas from any source and submitting the material as one’s own without acknowledging the source by the use of footnotes, quotation marks, or both).

(<http://www.usm.edu/business/academic-integrity-policy>. Last accessed June 2011.)

Professor Babin did not respond, but we soon learned why an author of the COB’s Academic Integrity Policy was not familiar with the language of the Policy. [It was copied from Syracuse University’s Academic Integrity Policy.]

As other faculty became aware of the questions being asked, they joined the inquiry and

searched for how other colleges dealt with questions of plagiarism. Their search of codes of ethics at other schools included the Whitman School, Syracuse University where COB's Dean Doty had previously been an administrator. Its Academic Integrity Policy and the one adopted by USM's COB were almost verbatim. A portion of the COB's Academic Integrity Policy follows:

A student's academic dishonesty threatens the entire University community. It undermines the central mission of the University: the personal and intellectual development of our students. It is unfair to students who do not cheat, because it devalues their efforts to learn and the grades they have earned through honest effort. It is unfair to graduates, because it degrades the reputation of the School and undermines the value of their degrees. It is unfair to instructional staff members, because it trivializes their efforts to educate and assess the progress of their students. Finally, academic dishonesty is unfair, as well as harmful, to the student who engages in it, because it interferes with his or her moral and intellectual development ...

(See, Appendix 2 for both Academic Integrity Policies.) Words copied without attribution or quotation marks are shown in red. The only substantive difference between the two Policies added a new perspective to our observations. The Whitman School's Academic Integrity Policy included an extensive list of citations. The citations—including some internal to Syracuse University—implied that Syracuse, a Tier I institution, was fulfilling an obligation to give credit for the ideas and words of the authors. By contrast, USM, a Tier IV institution, submitted the Academic Integrity Policy to the AACSB in support of reaccreditation without any attribution. When USM copied Syracuse's Academic Integrity Policy, the only portion COB did not copy was the list of citations giving credit for other peoples words and ideas.

**Ongoing relevance is memorialized by the fact that USM's COB still publicly represents Syracuse's Academic Integrity Policy on its webpage without any attribution.** (<http://www.usm.edu/business/academic-integrity-policy>. Last accessed June 2011.) Colleagues advised Directors Rod Posey and Stan Lewis of the School of Accountancy, Dean Harold Doty, and other administrators, but they did not respond. Later, Dean Lance Nail, current Director Skip Hughes, and President Martha Saunders were advised as recently as 2011. They refuse to discuss that the COB's Academic Integrity Policy is copied from the Whitman School's Academic Integrity Policy without attribution...

## Appendix 2

In red are the portions of USM's Academic Integrity Policy that are copied directly from Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy. No quotation marks or attribution is included by USM. Syracuse's Academic Integrity Policy presents an extensive list of citations. See, the end of Syracuse's Academic Integrity Policies. Also note that the

Appendices contained in Syracuse's Academic Integrity Policy are integrated in the body of USM's Academic Integrity Policy. However, the wording is unchanged.

**College of Business, University of Southern Mississippi**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

<http://www.usm.edu/business/academic-integrity-policy> (Last accessed June 2011)

**I. PREAMBLE**

The students, faculty (i.e., any person hired to conduct classroom activities or research at the university), and administrators of the College of Business (CoB) recognize that honesty and integrity are fundamental expectations in the academic and business communities. Accordingly, we hereby establish this Policy to be adhered to by all CoB administrators, faculty, and students.

**II. FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN SUPPORT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The faculty and administrators of the CoB share responsibility with our students for implementing the CoB's Academic Integrity Policy. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, accepting responsibility for:

A. Informing students that every student enrolled in a CoB course is automatically bound by the college's Academic Integrity Policy. Additionally, faculty will include the following paragraph in their course syllabi that references the Academic Integrity Policy:

Because this course is offered in the College of Business, all students enrolled in this course will adhere to the CoB's Academic Integrity Policy.

B. Clearly specifying parameters of permissible and impermissible conduct in specific contexts, such as course assignments.

C. Ensuring that examinations are properly proctored.

D. Whenever feasible, updating and modifying examinations and other graded assignments.

E. Responding to violations of this Policy according to the established procedures (see "Procedures for Responding to Violations of Academic Integrity Policy").

F. Communicating information regarding violations of this Policy and proceedings of the Academic Conduct Committee only to the Chair of the Academic Conduct Committee, the relevant CoB Department Chair, the Associate Dean of the CoB, the Dean of the CoB, the appropriate administrator of student affairs for the CoB, and persons who are present at any proceeding held by the Academic Conduct Committee.

G. Treating all students in a fair, nonarbitrary, and nondiscriminatory manner.

H. Using students' work for their own purposes only with their knowledge, permission, and proper crediting.

### III. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN SUPPORT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic dishonesty threatens the entire University community. It undermines the personal and intellectual development of our students. It is unfair to those who do not cheat because it devalues their efforts to learn and the grades they have earned through honest effort. It is unfair to graduates because it degrades the reputation of the CoB and undermines the value of their degrees. It is unfair to faculty because it trivializes their efforts to educate and assess the progress of their students. Finally, it is unfair, as well as harmful, to the student who engages in it because it interferes with his or her moral and intellectual development.

According to this policy, cheating is the unauthorized and inappropriate behavior as defined by the instructor. However, academic dishonesty can take many forms, but not limited to, the following:

#### A. Preparation of Course Work

1. Plagiarism (copying words, concepts, or ideas from any source and submitting the material as one's own without acknowledging the source by the use of footnotes, quotation marks, or both).
2. Submission of the same or substantially similar assignment to two different faculty members, without permission of both.
3. Unauthorized use of outside sources or another student's material.
4. Citation of sources not actually used in preparation of an assignment.
5. Providing to or receiving from any source assistance inconsistent with the instructor's expressed expectations regarding collaboration.
6. Revealing information to other students regarding pending written or other assignments, unless authorized by the instructor.
7. Falsification of data or results from research or laboratory experiments; deliberate written or oral misrepresentation of results in all matters of research and reporting.
8. Obtaining course assignment answers in a manner or from sources not authorized by the instructor (includes but is not limited to inappropriate use of the Internet).

## **B. Examination Behavior**

1. Unauthorized use of books, notes, papers, calculators, or other materials or devices during exams.
2. Taking an exam for another student, or permitting another student falsely to identify himself or herself in taking an exam.
3. Receiving unauthorized help from or giving help to another student during an in-class or take-home exam.
4. Taking longer than the allotted time to complete an exam.
5. Revealing information to another student about an examination which has not been returned to students by the instructor or has not been authorized by the instructor.
6. Obtaining examination answers in a manner or from sources not authorized by the instructor (includes but is not limited to inappropriate use of the Internet).
7. Altering answers on an examination after it is given back by the instructor in an attempt to change one's grade.

## **C. Communications**

1. Knowingly making a false charge under this Policy.
2. Disclosing information about any charge or proceeding under this Policy to anyone other than the Chair of the Academic Conduct Committee, the relevant CoB Department Chair, the Associate Dean of the CoB, the Dean of the CoB, and the persons who are present at any hearing held pursuant to this Policy.
3. Knowingly giving false information to a member of the faculty to request an alternative date or time for an examination or assignment.
4. Knowingly giving false information to another academic institution or a prospective employer about academic performance.

## **D. Use of the University Libraries and Library materials**

1. Improperly removing materials from a library (e.g., by failing to sign out materials or falsifying an authorizing signature).
2. Intentionally misplacing materials within a library.
3. Marking, cutting, or otherwise defacing library materials.

## **E. Use of Computer Facilities**

1. Unauthorized use of a computer file, program, user name, user ID or user password.
2. Making unauthorized copies of software licensed by the University or acquired for use in a course.
3. Interfering with others' use of computer programs or facilities (i.e., imposition of a "virus," "worm," or other malware or alteration of a class program).

## **IV. POLICY VIOLATIONS**

All members of the CoB community are strongly encouraged to report all suspected violations of this policy. A faculty member who is responsible for a course may respond to a violation within the context of the course in the manner he or she deems appropriate in accordance with the University of Southern Mississippi Student Handbook and will report the violation and his or her disposition of the violation using the "[Academic Misconduct Incident Reporting Form](#)" to the Associate Dean of the CoB. Instances of academic dishonesty may also be referred to the Academic Conduct Committee of the CoB by a faculty member, administrator, or student. When the Committee, after holding a hearing on a complaint, determines that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty, it may recommend an appropriate sanction.

### **Whitman School, Syracuse University**

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

##### **I. PREAMBLE**

The students, instructional staff, and administrators of the Whitman School recognize that honesty, integrity, and respect for others are fundamental expectations in the academic and business communities. Accordingly, we hereby establish this Policy, to be adhered to by all Whitman School administrators, instructional staff, and students.

##### **II. INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF AND ADMINISTRATORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN SUPPORT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

The administrators and instructional staff of the Whitman School share responsibility with our students for supporting and expecting a high standard of conduct from all members of our community. Examples of instructional staff and administrators' actions which reinforce academic integrity and should be their responsibility are included in Appendix A.

All students at Syracuse University have certain rights, as enumerated in the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities published in the University Handbook. When a

student alleges that one of these rights has been violated by an administrator, instructional staff member, or any other agent of the University, he or she may file a grievance with the University's Dean of Student Relations.

### III. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN SUPPORT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

A student's academic dishonesty threatens the entire University community. It undermines the central mission of the University: the personal and intellectual development of our students. It is unfair to students who do not cheat, because it devalues their efforts to learn and the grades they have earned through honest effort. It is unfair to graduates, because it degrades the reputation of the School and undermines the value of their degrees. It is unfair to instructional staff members, because it trivializes their efforts to educate and assess the progress of their students. Finally, academic dishonesty is unfair, as well as harmful, to the student who engages in it, because it interferes with his or her moral and intellectual development. Illustrations of forms of academic dishonesty are given in Appendix B.

### IV. POLICY VIOLATIONS

All members of the Whitman School community are strongly encouraged to report all suspected violations of this policy. An instructional staff member who is responsible for a course may respond to a violation within the context of the course in the manner s/he deems appropriate, up to and including course failure. Instances of academic dishonesty may also be referred to the Academic Integrity Committee of the Whitman School by an instructional staff member, administrator, or student. When the Committee, after holding a hearing on a complaint, determines that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty, it may impose an appropriate sanction.

### V. CERTIFICATION

All students who take courses in the Whitman School shall be required to certify in writing that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with this Policy.

### [Whitman School's] APPENDIX A

Instructional staff and administrators share responsibility with our students for implementing the Whitman School's Academic Integrity Policy. This includes, although it is not limited to, accepting responsibility for:

- A. Clearly specifying parameters of permissible and impermissible conduct in specific contexts, such as course assignments.
- B. Giving timely notice of changes to previously announced grading and other policies.
- C. Ensuring that examinations are properly proctored.

D. Updating and modifying examinations and other graded assignments to avoid imparting an unfair advantage to students who have access to such materials from prior classes or prior class periods.

E. Responding affirmatively to violations of this Policy according to established procedures (see document entitled “Procedures for Responding to Violations of Academic Integrity Policy”).

F. Communicating information regarding violations of this Policy and proceedings of the Academic Integrity Committee (described in “Procedures for Responding to Violations of Academic Integrity Policy”) only to the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee, the relevant Department Chair, the Director of Army Programs (in cases involving a participant in an Army program), the relevant Associate Dean, the Dean of the Whitman School, and persons who are present at any proceeding held by the Academic Integrity Committee.

G. Treating all students in a fair, nonarbitrary, and nondiscriminatory manner.

H. Crediting any use of a student’s work.

#### [Whitman School’s] APPENDIX B

Academic dishonesty can take many forms, including, but not limited to, the following:

##### A. Preparation of Course Work

1. Plagiarism (copying words, concepts, or ideas from any source and submitting the material as one’s own without acknowledging the source by the use of footnotes, quotation marks, or both).
2. Submission of the same or substantially similar assignment to two different instructional staff members, without permission of both.
3. Unauthorized use of outside sources or another student’s material.
4. Citation of sources not actually used in preparation of an assignment.
5. Providing to or receiving from any source assistance inconsistent with the instructor’s expressed expectations regarding collaboration.
6. Imparting an unfair advantage by revealing information regarding pending written or other assignments.



## B. Examination Behavior

1. Unauthorized use of books, notes, papers, calculators, or other materials or devices during exams.
2. Taking an exam for another student, or permitting another student falsely to identify himself or herself in taking an exam.
3. Receiving unauthorized help from or giving help to another student during an in-class or take-home exam.
4. Taking longer than the allotted time to complete an exam.
5. Imparting an unfair advantage to another student by revealing information to another student about an examination which has not been returned to students by the instructor.

## C. Communications

1. Knowingly making a false charge under this Policy.
2. Disclosing information about any charge or proceeding under this Policy to anyone other than the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee, the relevant Department Chair, the Dean of the Whitman School, and persons who are present at any hearing held pursuant to this Policy.
3. Knowingly giving false information to a member of the instructional staff to postpone an examination or assignment.
4. Knowingly giving false information to another academic institution or a prospective employer about academic performance.

## D. Use of the Syracuse University and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Libraries and Library Materials

1. Improperly removing materials from a library (for example, by failing to sign out materials or falsifying an authorizing signature).
2. Intentionally misplacing materials within a library.
3. Marking, cutting, or otherwise defacing library materials.

## E. Use of Computer Facilities

1. Unauthorized use of a computer file, program, user name or user ID.
2. Making unauthorized copies of software licensed by the University or acquired for use

in a course.

3. Interfering with others' use of computer programs or facilities (such as imposition of a "virus" or alteration of a class program).

**Portions of this policy are adapted from the following sources, with permission: Council of Writing Program Administrators. *"Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: WPA Statement on Best Policies."* Council of Writing Program Administrators, January 2003.**

**<http://www.wpacouncil.org/positions/index.html>. Howard, Rebecca Moore. "A Plagiarism Pentimento." *Journal of Teaching Writing* (Summer 1993). 233-245.**

**Portions of this policy are based on the academic integrity policies of Boston College, Cornell University, Duke University, Georgetown University, the University of Maryland, and former policies of Syracuse University's School of Architecture, College of Arts and Sciences, L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Education, College of Human Services and Health Professions, School of Information Studies, Whitman School of Management, and College of Visual and Performing Arts. (Syracuse University, Academic Integrity Office, December 19, 2007.**

**<http://provost.syr.edu/provost/units/academicprograms/academicintegrity/>**

(Emphasis added.)