

On March 31, 2008 the Senate approved the following revision of the Senate Bylaws concerning academic misconduct by undergraduate students at the Storrs and Regional campuses. The new procedures will go into effect at the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester. Existing misconduct cases and/or any cases that occur through the summer 2008 sessions will be handled under the current procedures (i.e., through the individual Schools/Colleges).

For additional information about Student Academic Misconduct procedures please contact Cinnamon Adams, Community Standards (cinnamon.adams@uconn.edu or 486-3426).

Section II. E. 13. Cheating – Student Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is dishonest or unethical academic behavior that includes but is not limited to misrepresenting mastery in an academic area (e.g., cheating), intentionally or knowingly failing to properly credit information, research or ideas to their rightful originators or representing such information, research or ideas as your own (e.g., plagiarism).

Instructors shall take reasonable steps to prevent academic misconduct in their courses and to inform students of course-specific requirements. Students' responsibilities with respect to academic integrity are described "Responsibilities of Community Life: The Student Code."

When the instructor of record or designee (hereafter referred to as instructor) believes that an act of academic misconduct has occurred he or she is responsible for saving the evidence in its original form and need not return any of the original papers or other materials to the student. Copies of the student's work and information about other evidence will be provided to the student upon request.

When an instructor believes there is sufficient information to demonstrate a case of academic misconduct, he or she shall notify the student in writing of the allegation of misconduct and the academic consequences that the instructor will impose. The appropriate academic consequence for serious offenses is generally considered to be failure in the course. For offenses regarding small portions of the course work, failure for that portion is suggested with the requirement that the student repeat the work for no credit. The written notification shall also inform the student whether the case has been referred to the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board for consideration of additional sanctions. The instructor shall send the written notification to the student with a copy to the Office of Community Standards within 15 business days of having discovered the alleged misconduct. At the Regional Campuses, a copy shall be sent to the Office of Student Affairs.

In certain cases, the dean of a school or college or designee may become aware of alleged academic misconduct and may bring a complaint forward to the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board.

The student has 15 business days from receipt of the written notice to respond to the instructor and/or to request a hearing (see The Academic Misconduct Hearing Board). If the student does not respond within the allotted time the instructor's sanctions shall be imposed. If the student requests a hearing the instructor shall forward the request to the Office of Community Standards. At the Regional Campuses, the instructor shall forward a copy to the Office of Student Affairs. If the student and the

instructor reach a mutually acceptable resolution of the case the instructor shall notify the Office of Community Standards (or the Regional Campus Office of Student Affairs) of the agreement. The instructor shall also notify the Office of Community Standards (or the Regional Campus Office of Student Affairs) if he or she withdraws the allegation of misconduct. A student who has been notified that he or she has been accused of academic misconduct may not withdraw from the course in which the alleged misconduct has occurred without the approval of the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board.

If a semester concludes before an academic misconduct matter is resolved, the student shall receive a temporary “I” (incomplete) grade in the course until the instructor submits the appropriate grade.

The Academic Misconduct Hearing Board

The Academic Misconduct Hearing Board, which is administered by the Office of Community Standards (Dean of Students Office), comprises two faculty members, two students, and a nonvoting chairperson, all of whom are appointed by the Director of the Office of Community Standards. At each Regional Campus, a designee working in conjunction with the Office of Community Standards is responsible for the organization and administration of their Academic Misconduct Hearing Board. Hearing procedures will be in accordance with the hearing procedures described in “The Student Code.” The Office of Community Standards will ensure that appropriate Dean(s) and Faculty are kept informed of the status of misconduct cases in a timely fashion.

The accused student or the accusing instructor may refer a case of alleged academic misconduct to the Office of Community Standards for it to be adjudicated by the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board.

If the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board finds that the student is “Not Responsible” for the alleged misconduct the Board shall not impose any sanctions and the instructor must reevaluate the student’s course grade in light of the Board’s finding.

If the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board finds that the student is “Responsible”, the instructor’s grading sanction shall be imposed. The Board does not have the authority to change or influence the grading sanction imposed by the instructor.

Upon consideration of a student’s record of misconduct and/or the nature of the offense the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board may impose additional sanctions. The Board should apply these sanctions in proportion to the severity of the misconduct. These sanctions may include any sanctions as described in “The Student Code.”

Hearing Appeal

The decision of the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board may be appealed to the Provost or his/her designee. An appeal is not a new hearing. It is a review of the record of the original hearing.

1. An appeal may be sought on two grounds:

a. On a claim of error in the hearing procedure that substantially affected the decision. Appeals on such grounds may be presented, specifically described, in writing within five business days of the announcement of the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board's decision.

b. On a claim of new evidence or information material to the case that was not known at the time of the hearing. Appeals on such grounds must be presented, specifically described, in writing within five business days of the new evidence having been discovered.

2. The decision of the Provost or his/her designee is final. There will be no further right of appeal.

3. The Provost or his/her designee shall have the authority to dismiss an appeal not sought on proper grounds.

4. If an appeal is upheld, the Provost or his/her designee shall refer the case with procedural specifications back to the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board.