

## **MEMO**

Date: Feb. 14, 2008

From: Dr. Gary Whiting, Faculty Senate President

To: Dr. Mark Padilla, Provost

Subject: Senate Comments on the University Honor Report dated Nov. 30, 2007

### **General comments:**

The idea of balancing the promotion of integrity and the deterrence and adjudication of misconduct resonated with the Faculty Senators. A list of rights and responsibilities is crucial in making the code a positive aspect of a student's life. The Senators also commend the idea of having the students take more responsibility for maintaining the Honor system. The recommendation of having the students take a central role for the Convocation's organization and presentation is critical to impart the culture of honor to their freshman colleagues and the community.

### **Support:**

The Senators particularly support the idea of a commendation/celebration when a special heroic or honorable activity is performed by a member of our community.

The Senators agree that there is a need for faculty and students to discuss/understand the distinctions between Honor Code and Student Conduct violations.

One additional suggestion is to develop a process which has a built-in feedback to the professor who reports the violation. Reporting of outcomes has been spotty in the past.

Some Senators suggest that some discussion of honor should be incorporated in the First Year Seminar courses.

To assist in checking for the integrity of student products, Senators would like to have a campus-wide site license for TurnItIn software.

### **Concerns:**

Many Senators have serious concerns with the permanent XF grade on a student's transcript. The students should be able to redeem themselves through the rehabilitation process. The branding for life should only happen if a student has habitually broken the honor code and is expelled from the university community.

There were positive and negative views on publishing Honor Code violations in the Captain's Log. A suggestion was made – do not publish the student names – only the violation.

Faculty training on honor could be useful if the focus is on pedagogical methods/techniques that can enhance honor among our students. The faculty are pledged to the honor code of the AAUP standards.

Suggest that the inclusion of a "Pledge" or "On my honor" statement on student work should be encouraged or suggested to faculty but a requirement may impinge on academic freedom.