

Academic Affairs Council  
107 Lab of Mechanics  
3:00 pm, March 10, 2008

### Minutes

Present: Suzanne Hendrich, Chair, Vlastislav Bracha, Greg Luecke,  
Jim Thompson, Ed Braun.

Guests: Michelle Boettcher, Judicial Affairs Office  
Mary Jo Gonzales, Assoc. Dean of Students

Suzanne Hendrich discussed a concern raised by a faculty member about an instance of student misconduct. The student had copied a 1500 word paper and the misconduct was reported to the Judicial Affairs office. After the matter was resolved by the Judicial Affairs office the student was found to be responsible for a minor case of Academic Misconduct. The faculty member felt this was anything but a “minor” infraction and was frustrated and confused by the outcome.

Michelle Boettcher and Mary Jo Gonzales came to the AAC meeting to explain this situation and provide more background on Academic Misconduct procedures and processes. A handout of information found on the Judicial Affairs Office web site was distributed to the committee and discussed by Boettcher and Gonzales. They explained the distinction between minor and major cases of academic misconduct. Basically, a major case is any matter in which the student could potentially be expelled from the University either temporarily or permanently. They provided an overview of how the process operates, possible sanctions a student might face if found responsible for instances of academic misconduct, and the role of the faculty member in the process. They stressed that faculty need to be aware of their role in the process and should not hesitate to contact personnel from the Judicial Affairs office if they have any questions.

Boettcher and Gonzales answered several questions raised by the AAC members. Bracha suggested that new terms be chosen for “minor” and “major” cases of academic misconduct so that there would not be any misunderstanding about the seriousness of instances of academic misconduct. The AAC and the visitors from the Dean of Students office felt this suggestion had merit.

Minutes of the February 18, 2008 meeting of the AAC were approved.

The proposal to discontinue the M.S. degree in Veterinary Diagnostics and Production Animal Medicine was discussed. Hendrich moved approval of the discontinuation and Braun seconded. The proposal to discontinue the program was approved.

Suzanne Hendrich discussed the standardized tests being evaluated for use in a Voluntary Accountability System. The tests under consideration focus on written communication skills and critical thinking skills. The Council discussed some of the concerns surrounding use of such tests and the voluntary accountability system in general.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4 pm.

Minutes prepared by Ed Braun.