**Date:** August 2019

**To:** All WPI Faculty

**From:** Gregory Snoddy, Dean of Students

**Re:** Academic Dishonesty Report for 2018-2019 (E2, A, B, C, D, E1)

---

Each year, to support the faculty policy on academic honesty, the Dean of Students Office tabulates data for reported cases of academic dishonesty. On the following pages, you will find data on academic dishonesty at WPI for the 2018-2019 academic year, as well as aggregate data on academic dishonesty cases over the past five years. Additional historical data is included on the breakdown of academic dishonesty cases by type. The staff within the Dean of Students Office hopes that you find this data helpful in examining departmental trends over time.

Also attached is the revised copy of the *Faculty Guide to Academic Integrity at WPI*. This brochure has been developed to educate and remind faculty about the academic honesty policy, and to explain WPI's procedure for adjudicating academic dishonesty cases. The guide provides information on how to minimize academic dishonesty in the classroom; as noted in past years, one of the most important suggestions from students is to **clearly explain your expectations during the first day of classes, and frequently thereafter, and include concrete examples that do and do-not constitute cheating, plagiarism, facilitation, and fabrication in your course(s)**.

It is important to note that a similar brochure for students *(Student Guide to Academic Integrity)* has been distributed to all undergraduate and graduate students.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this material or any matter related to the WPI Academic Honesty Policy.

Academic dishonesty continued to be the most frequent type of violation of WPI's Code of Conduct in 2018-2019 for cases adjudicated through the Dean of Students Office. In 2018-2019, there were 91 **suspected cases** initially reported to the Dean of Students Office. *(Table 1)*

*Table 1*

| Number of Potential Academic Dishonesty Cases Initially Reported to the Dean of Students Office | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Academic Year** | **Total** | **UG** | **Grad** |
| 2018-2019 | 92 | 75 | 17 |
| 2017-2018 | 103 | 78 | 25 |
| 2016-2017 | 78 | 64 | 14 |
| 2015-2016 | 121 | 108 | 13 |
| 2014-2015 | 95 | 90 | 5 |

Of the 92 cases reported to the Dean of Students Office in the past year, 54 were resolved by faculty at the departmental level, as the students admitted responsibility for the violation and accepted the proposed academic penalty. 29 cases were dismissed by faculty upon further investigation and discussion with the students at the departmental level. There are 2 unresolved cases.

The Campus Hearing Board (CHB) or Administrative Hearing Officer (for non-matriculated students) heard 7 cases of alleged academic dishonesty, of which all 7 were found "Responsible". None of these cases were appealed. *(Table 2)*

Educational and prevention sessions are held annually with members of the campus community – specifically, Mass Academy students, new international students (undergraduate and graduate), new graduate students and new faculty.

*Table 2*

## 2018-2019 Academic Dishonesty Cases

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases dismissed by faculty at department level | 29 |
| Number of cases in which students accepted responsibility at department level | 54 |
| Number of cases forwarded to CHB/Administrative Hearing Officer | 7 |
| • Number of *responsible* findings | 7 |
| • Number of *not responsible* findings | 0 |
| Number of cases forwarded to CAB/Administrative Appeals Officer | 0 |
| • Number of decisions/sanctions upheld | 0 |
| • Number of decisions/sanctions modified | 0 |
| • Number of decisions/sanctions pending appeal | 0 |
| Number of cases pending/unresolved | 2 |
| **Total** | **92** |

## Cases by Department

Many academic departments followed up on suspected academic dishonesty cases, led by Mathematics (19) followed by Humanities and Arts (13). *(Table 3)*

*Table 3*

## 2018-2019 Academic Dishonesty Cases Initially Reported by Academic Departments

| | | NOT RESPONSIBLE | | RESPONSIBLE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total suspected cases | Dismissed by faculty | CHB* Decision | Dept. Level | CHB* Decision | Cases Pending |
| Aerospace Engineering | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Biology/Biotechnology | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Biomedical Engineering | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Chemical Engineering | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Chemistry/Biochemistry | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Civil Engineering | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Computer Science | 12 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Data Science | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Electrical/Computer Eng. | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire Protection Eng. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| First Year Seminars | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Humanities and Arts | 13 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| IGSD | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| IMGD | 6 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Mathematical Sciences | 19 | 14 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Mechanical Engineering | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Physics | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Robotics Engineering | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| School of Business | 9 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| SSPS | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| **Total** | **92** | **29** | **0** | **54** | **7** | **2** |

***Includes Administrative Hearing Officer Decisions for non-matriculated students.**

**Historical Trends**

*Table 4* represents the aggregate data regarding the outcome of **academic dishonesty cases over the past 5 years**. The departmental distribution of academic dishonesty cases with **responsible findings for the past five years** can be found in *Table 5.*

*Table 4*

| **Resolution of Academic Dishonesty Cases Reported 2014-2015 through 2018-2019** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **18-19** | **17-18** | **16-17** | **15-16** | **14-15** |
| Number of 'responsible' findings by faculty at departmental level | 54 | 53 | 40 | 70 | 43 |
| Number of 'responsible' findings by CHB* | 7 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| Number of 'not responsible' findings by CHB* | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Number of cases dismissed by faculty | 29 | 35 | 29 | 40 | 37 |

*Note: The above totals do not include any cases that were pending at the end of an academic year.*
***Includes Administrative Hearing Officer Decisions*

*Table 5*

| **'Responsible' Academic Dishonesty Cases by Department 2014-2015 through 2018-2019** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **18-19** | **17-18** | **16-17** | **15-16** | **14-15** |
| Aerospace Engineering | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Biology/Biotechnology | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Biomedical Engineering | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Chemical Engineering | 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| Chemistry/Biochemistry | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Civil Engineering | 5 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| Computer Science | 9 | 22 | 13 | 16 | 20 |
| Data Science | 5 | | | | |
| Electrical and Computer Engineering | 3 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 1 |
| Fire Protection Engineering | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| First Year Seminars | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Humanities and Arts | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 10 |
| IGSD | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| IMGD | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Mathematical Sciences | 3 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 3 |
| Mechanical Engineering | 0 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 1 |
| Physics | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Robotics Engineering | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| School of Business | 4 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Social Science/Policy Studies | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **TOTAL** | **54** | **60** | **48** | **75** | **51** |

**Types of academic dishonesty over the past five years** are displayed in *Table 6.*

*Table 6*

| Responsible Findings by Violation Type 2014-2015 through 2018-2019 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 18-19 | 17-18 | 16-17 | 15-16 | 14-15 |
| Total number of Responsible findings* | 54 | 62 | 45 | 75 | 50 |
| • Number of incidents of cheating | 33 | 39 | 26 | 25 | 34 |
| • Number of incidents of plagiarism | 31 | 20 | 19 | 34 | 15 |
| • Number of incidents of facilitation | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| • Number of incidents of fabrication | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 |

*\*In some cases, students may have been found responsible for more than one type of violation in a single incident, which is why the number of cases may be higher than the total numbers reported in **Table 4**.*

**Sanctions Imposed**
WPI faculty have the discretion to sanction students who accept responsibility for violating the Academic Honesty Policy to a penalty not to exceed an NR/F for the course. The CHB may sanction a student to a penalty of up to and including suspension or expulsion from WPI. The CHB can only make recommendations to the faculty member regarding any academic penalty for the student.
*Note: Some students received multiple sanctions for the same incident, thus the total number of sanctions exceeds the total number of incidents.*

*Table 7*

| 2018-2019 Sanctions for Academic Dishonesty Violations | |
|---|---|
| 26 | *"0" for assignment/lab* |
| 8 | *"NR" for course* |
| 4 | *"F" for course* |
| 7 | *CHB Restrictions imposed* |
| 1 | *Class visit/presentation* |
| 1 | *Community service* |
| 0 | *Counseling referral* |
| 0 | *Disciplinary expulsion* |
| 7 | *Disciplinary probation* |
| 0 | *Disciplinary suspension* |
| 0 | *Disciplinary warning* |
| 0 | *Formal written apology* |
| 0 | *Ineligible to hold TA position* |
| 1 | *Ineligible to register for online courses* |
| 14 | *Lowered letter grade for course* |
| 0 | *Meet with the professor/case officer* |
| 0 | *No academic credit* |
| 0 | *No grade penalty* |
| 4 | *Online Academic Integrity Program* |
| 0 | *Restriction from Project Center travel* |
| 0 | *Revise paper* |
| 1 | *Written assignment* |