

W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

17 June 2013

To: UW Tacoma Faculty

From: Katie Baird, Chair, Faculty Assembly
JW Harrington, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Cedric Howard, Vice Chancellor, Student and Enrollment Services

Re: UW Tacoma Process for Allegations of Student Academic Misconduct

During Spring Quarter, UWT faculty and administrative leaders engaged in a collaborative effort to re-revisit and re-establish our campus policies around the handling of allegations of academic misconduct. This has been motivated by the realization that a past agreement reached between faculty and administrators several years ago had not been followed, and that some allegations of misconduct by faculty had not been acted upon.

Our expectation is that the changes we have instituted (described below) will better serve both students and faculty, and that the process will be a more collaborative and transparent one that supports the culture of high academic and behavioral standards on our campus that we all aspire to.

The Formal Process for Initiating Allegations of Academic Misconduct

Faculty wishing to lodge formal allegations of academic misconduct against a student should continue to send Incident Reports¹ to the Student Enrollment and Services office. These will be reviewed by the office's Informal Officer, as described in the Washington Administrative Code.² The Informal Officer or the student always has the option to refer the allegation to the University's Disciplinary Committee, which is a committee comprised of both faculty and students. In all cases, the Informal Officer will inform faculty and the director/dean about the outcome of the case.

In addition to informing the initiating faculty member, going forward the Informal Officer will also be presenting to Faculty Assembly's Academic Policy and Curriculum Committee (APCC) a quarterly report that summarizes the office's caseload and the outcomes of these cases. Once yearly the Informal Officer will also meet with APCC to discuss and review UWT's Academic Misconduct process; part of this discussion will involve identifying campus-wide practices that might better support academic success. Faculty Assembly will use its representatives, newsletter and website to keep faculty abreast of these reports and conversations.

¹http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SI/Documents/Conduct/Student_Conduct_Incident_Report_2013.pdf

²<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=478-120>

We believe these new processes will help underscore for everyone on campus the importance of academic honesty, and ensure that we work collaboratively to improve our communication about it. If at any time you have comments and suggestions on this topic, we invite you to send them our way.

Copy: Debra Friedman, Chancellor
Ed Mirecki, Dean of Student Engagement
Jill Purdy, Vice Chair, Faculty Assembly