Explanation of Revised

**Integrity of Scholarship and Grades Policy**

Effective August 16, 2009

The revised policy includes three substantive changes:

1. **REPORTS OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** An instructor who issues a penalty grade for academic misconduct (see definitions below), including--but not limited to--a failing grade on the assignment or in the course, must submit a letter to both the student and the student’s academic dean, describing the details of the misconduct. The student’s dean will add the letter to the student’s academic folder.

   [The previous policy required an instructor to send a letter only to the student’s dean and only if the instructor issued a failing grade in a course for academic misconduct. The previous policy was silent on where the deans were to file the letter.]

2. **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:** First offenders of academic misconduct will be required to attend an educational program on academic integrity provided by the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education or the Dean of The Graduate School, depending on the students’ status.

   [The previous policy included no such requirement.]

3. **DISCIPLINARY HEARING OPTION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:** A graduate student who faces an academic
disciplinary hearing now has the option of an administrative hearing conducted by the Dean of The Graduate School or a hearing before the hearing board in the college in which the student is enrolled.

[The previous policy did not include the option of an administrative hearing for graduate students. Undergraduate students retain the option of an administrative hearing before the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education or before a college-level hearing board. As before, only students who receive a failing grade in the course for academic misconduct are subject to an academic disciplinary hearing.]

**CLARIFICATIONS:**
The revised policy clarifies that instructors may select from a range of possible penalty grades for academic misconduct rather than issue either a failing grade on an assignment or in a course. The revised policy also clarifies that adherence to unit-approved honor codes and professional standards are included in the policy.

**Definitions**

*Academic Disciplinary Hearing:* A hearing against a student accused of academic misconduct in which the student's dean or instructor seeks to impose sanctions either in addition to a penalty grade or other than a penalty grade in instances where no penalty grade is possible.

*Academic Dishonesty:* See *General Student Regulation 1.00: Protection of Scholarship and Grades*

*Academic Misconduct:* Violation of regulations prohibiting academic dishonesty, violations of professional standards, and falsification of academic or admission records.

*Penalty Grade:* A grade assigned to a student by an instructor to formalize a charge of academic misconduct. The revised policy
states: "A penalty grade may be a reduced score or grade for the assignment or a reduced grade for the course."

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Questions? Contact the Ombudsman.