

**Background to the resolution:**

The Dean of Faculty was informed by an instructor at Boston University that a student in the College of Arts & Sciences (A&S) may have violated the Cornell Code of Academic Integrity by “providing unauthorized assistance on examinations, papers, or any other work” to a student in his class at BU. The instructor presented evidence that the Cornell student produced a research paper written to the specifications of the course assignment, using primary sources that the other student had discussed with the instructor multiple times over the course of the semester. The completed paper was sent from the Cornell student’s e-mail account approximately two hours before the other student submitted it to the instructor under her own name. The BU student was charged under her university’s academic integrity code, admitted that she had not written the paper and was convicted.

The Chair of the Academic Integrity Hearing Board of the A&S felt that the evidence was persuasive enough to warrant investigation. In a preliminary inquiry, the Cornell student argued that, although he was not admitting the truth of any of these charges, the Cornell Code of Academic Integrity does not apply because such an action did not help another *Cornell* student to cheat.

Nonetheless, the A&S AIHB Chair interpreted the Code to cover this alleged activity, and the college notified the student that he was being charged with a violation of the code, as, according to Section 1.F “The authority to determine whether a specific action shall be treated as a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity lies with the Academic Integrity Hearing Board.”

University Counsel feels that the Code is ambiguous on the issue of jurisdiction in this case, and has suggested that the Educational Policy Committee clarify the intent of the Code on this point and the Educational Policy Committee agrees.

**Proposed Changes to the Cornell Code of Academic Integrity, Resolution 1:**

**Whereas** a recent alleged violation of academic integrity has indicated the need to clarify and explicitly expand the scope of such violations, and

**Whereas** the specific case involved a student who allegedly provided unauthorized assistance to a student at another university by writing a research paper which the other student submitted under her own name for the completion of an assignment, and

**Whereas** the student at the other university was charged under her university’s academic integrity code, admitted that she had not written the paper and was convicted, and

**Whereas** in a preliminary inquiry conducted by the College of Arts & Sciences, the Cornell student argued that, although he was not admitting the truth of any of these charges, the Cornell

Code of Academic Integrity does not apply, because such an action did not help another Cornell student to cheat, and

**Whereas** University Counsel has confirmed that the Code of Academic Integrity is ambiguous on the issue of jurisdiction in this regard.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Cornell University Faculty affirm that Cornell's Code of Academic Integrity covers all academic interactions, not only those directly affecting the Cornell community, and that the following changes be made to Cornell's Code of Academic Integrity "Principle" and Section "I. B." as follows (with changes identified in red):

### **Principle**

Absolute integrity is expected of every Cornell student in all academic undertakings. Integrity entails a firm adherence to a set of values, and the values most essential to an academic community are grounded on the concept of honesty with respect to the intellectual efforts of oneself and others. Academic integrity is expected not only in formal coursework situations, but in all University relationships and interactions connected to the educational process, including the use of University resources, **as well as in relationships and interactions connected to the educational process at other academic institutions.** While both students and faculty of Cornell assume the responsibility of maintaining and furthering these values, this document is concerned specifically with the conduct of students. A Cornell student's submission of work for academic credit indicates that the work is the student's own. All outside assistance should be acknowledged, and the student's academic position truthfully reported at all times. In addition, Cornell students have a right to expect academic integrity from each of their peers.

### **I. Guidelines for Students.**

#### **B. Examples of Violations**

The following actions are examples of activities that violate the Code of Academic Integrity and subject their actors to proceedings under the Code. This is not a definitive list.

1. Knowingly representing the work of others as one's own.
2. Using, obtaining, or providing unauthorized assistance on examinations, papers, or any other academic work.
3. Fabricating data in support of laboratory or fieldwork.
4. Forging a signature to certify completion of a course assignment or a recommendation to graduate school.
5. Unfairly advancing one's academic position by hoarding or damaging library materials.
6. Misrepresenting one's academic accomplishments.
7. **Providing unauthorized assistance on examinations, papers, or any other academic work to students at other academic institutions.**