

# Recommended Changes to the Code of Academic Integrity

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# The EPC Looked at Several Possible Changes

Instructors Allowed to Change the Chosen Grade Option

Using Video in Lieu of the Primary Hearing Witness

A More Efficient Method for Handling Large Cases

All driven by Spring 2020 Experiences and all discussed at the Sept 9 meeting.

# Giving the Instructor the Right to Change the Student's Chosen Grade Option

## The Problem

A typical sanction might involve the lowering of the final grade by some specified amount. This option is generally not available to the instructor if the violator is taking the course S/U.

## The Solution?

If the student is taking the course S/U then the instructor has the authority to have the selected grade option changed to "letter grade" provided the course is not "S/U Only".

## Recommended Code Change

A student charged with violating the Code of Academic Integrity in a course may not drop **or change the grading option** in that course without the consent of the instructor unless the student has subsequently been cleared of the charges.

**If the student is taking the course S/U, the instructor may offer the student the choice to change the grading option to LET before assigning a grade penalty following a guilty finding.**

# Using Video in Lieu of Having an Independent Witness At the Primary Hearing

## The Issue

The job of the independent witness is to take sufficiently detailed notes of the hearing so that subsequent disputes as to what transpired can be resolved. The independent witness is a significant overhead associated with the Primary Hearing and historically has had marginal value.

## Solution?

Hold the hearing via Zoom and let the video/audio recording play the role of the independent witness?

## Recommended Code Change

At the primary hearing the following shall be present: the faculty member concerned, the student in question, and a third-party independent witness. The independent witness shall be a faculty **or staff** member or a student appointed by the Hearing Board Chairperson or the chairperson of the faculty member's department. The student may also bring to the hearing an advisor and additional witnesses to testify to his or her innocence.

# A Method for Handling Cases that Involve Many Students

## The Issue

If a case involves a large number of students then it becomes impractical for the instructor to attend every primary hearing.

## The Solution?

If a case involves more than three students then the instructor has the option of delegating their role in the Primary Hearing to a member of the staff or faculty who is affiliated with their department. The designee must be approved by their chair and it is upon the advice of the designee that the instructor makes a ruling. The instructor may wish to engage with the student before making a decision. If such a dialog takes place then it is to be treated as part of the Primary Hearing.

## Recommended Code Change

**If a case involves more than three students, the instructor may delegate the instructor's role in one or more primary hearings to another tenured, tenure-track, emeritus, or RTE faculty member. Any primary hearing with the instructor not present must be recorded. The instructor retains responsibility for ruling on each case (see II.B.4(c) below) and therefore may wish to engage with a student from whose primary hearing the instructor was absent. If such engagement takes place, it will be treated as part of the primary hearing.**



## What Next?

The resolution and discussion documents are posted [here](#) for commenting.

Planned vote at the October 28 or November 11 meeting.