

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY at FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE



July 2007
Faculty Presentation

What We Will Cover Today

- Why a policy at all???
- Why students cheat
- Why they choose not to cheat
- FSC's Policy
- What you can do...

Why A Policy is Necessary

- On most campuses, **70%** of students admit to some cheating.
- Most students (**77%**) have concluded that 'cut & paste' plagiarism-is not a serious issue.
- In a survey involving almost 10,000 faculty in the last three years, **44%** of those who were aware of student cheating in their course in the last three years, have never reported a student for cheating to the appropriate campus authority.

Why Student's Cheat

- Fear of losing competitive edge
- Everyone else does it...going back to the conditioning of their adolescent days
- The environment tolerates it
- There is a lot to lose --- future...succeed at any cost
- Desire for better grades
- Time crunch

Why Student's Cheat (continued)

- It is convenient – access to Internet paper mills
- The assignment counts for only a small % of the grade
- The assignment lacks relevance...or is too long
- Society values outcomes v. process – learning for the sake of learning is no longer valued
- **Faculty do not care**

From William Kibler: Mississippi State University

From the Students

- “Ten minutes of cheating is better than two hours of studying.”
- “I feel good that I’m going to get a good grade.”
- “I know I’m capable of doing the work. I just didn’t have the time.”
- “No one cares anyway – so it must be OK to cheat – maybe even stupid not to.”

From William Kibler: Mississippi State University

Who Cheats??

- Top students who value grades more than learning and honesty.
- Students with lower grades – survival.
- Cheating is higher among fraternity and sorority members (test files, group think).
- Males and females (equally)
- Younger students
- All cultures

Why Students Choose **NOT** to Cheat

- Influence of situational and/or institutional factors on cheating
- Honor codes
- Faculty responses to cheating
- Sanction threats
- Social learning

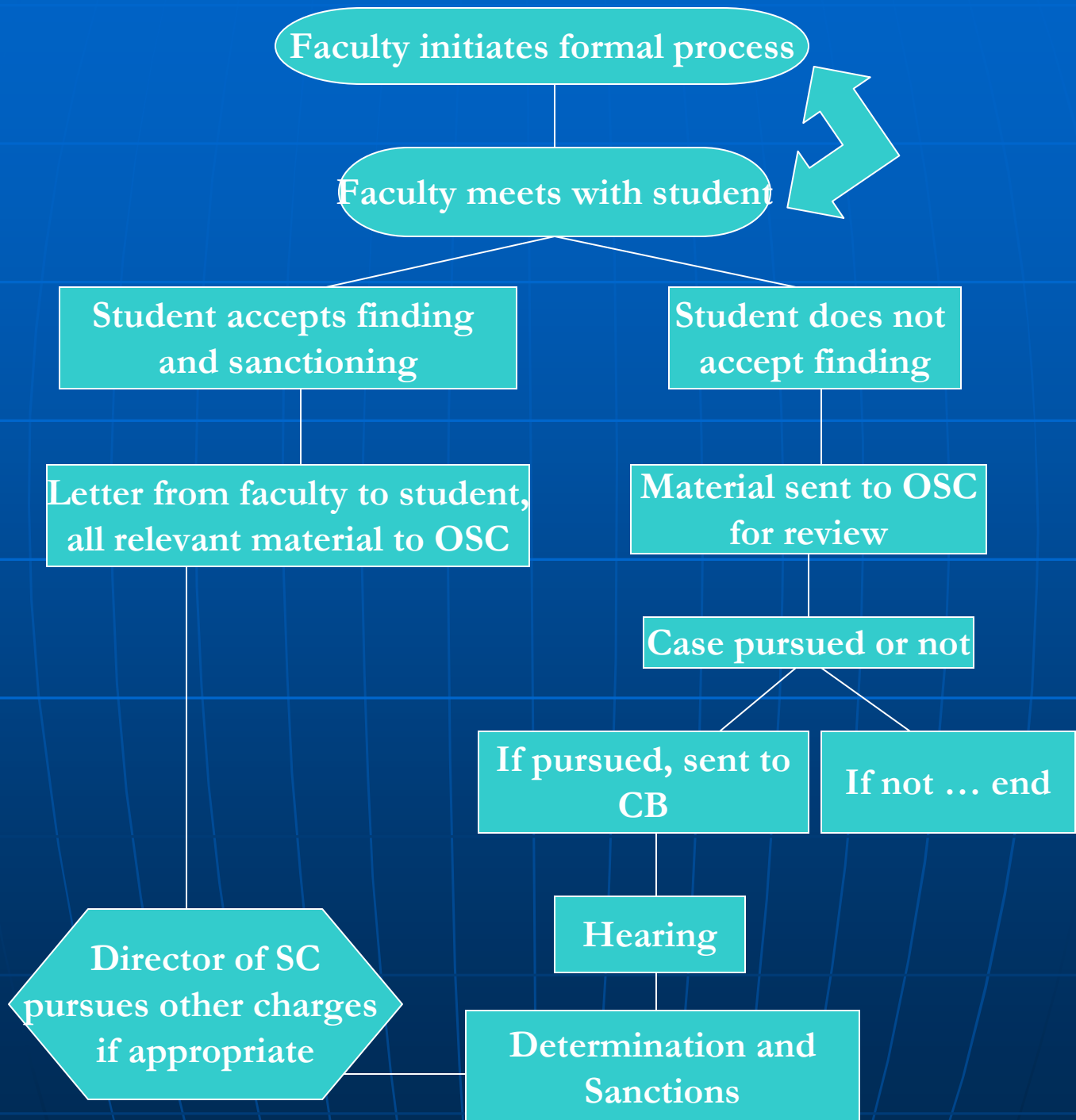
From William Kibler: Mississippi State University

Cheating Examples

- Duke's Fuqua School of Business, 2007: 34 students disciplined for working in groups on a take-home exam
- Air Force Academy, 2007: 15 cadets expelled for cheating on an exam
- Indiana Univ's School of Dentistry, 2007: 40 students disciplined for hacking into computer files to review exam materials before exam
- Univ. of Maryland, 2002: cheating scheme uncovered during final exam week involving 12 students

Examples of inappropriate use may include taking pictures or storing info with phones, computer hacking, etc.

Academic Integrity Policy Flowchart



How To Address Academic Integrity..

- Include a statement in your syllabus addressing this issue.
- Verbally address it at the beginning of the semester, and intermittently during the semester.
- Ask the Director of Student Conduct to provide a short talk on the topic at the beginning of the semester
- Go to www.fsc.edu/judicial for other resources