

October 22, 2012

TO Foothill Faculty
FROM Academic Integrity Committee of the Academic Senate
RE Fostering a Culture of Integrity on Campus, a Student Perspective

Eta Lin, Mary Thomas, and Kay Thornton attended a recent ASFC meeting as representatives of the senate's academic integrity committee, to begin to articulate the shared academic values of students and faculty, and to explore ways to express those values widely on campus.

Students are interested in spearheading a student-led and faculty-guided campaign to foster a culture of academic integrity here at Foothill. In their words, "quality attracts quality," and academic integrity can be called simply "honest hard work." A school that is known for academic integrity is attractive to students, partly because of the respect such a school would inspire from transfer institutions, professional associations, and employers.

In particular, students offered several suggestions for faculty actions in the classroom that we can begin to practice immediately, largely by discussing integrity issues explicitly and often. Here they are.

- > Help to raise student awareness of integrity issues
- > Use discussion prompts like, why is cheating bad? Or, why is academic integrity valuable?
- > Students respond well to other students, so invite students to advertise the importance and value of academic integrity
- > Lay out the case in favor of learning and how cheating short-circuits it
- > Stress our willingness and ability to help students with subject material.
- > Explicitly refer to our academic honor code (students will push the limits if the honor code doesn't seem important to the instructor)
- > Discuss student cheating scenarios, hypothetical or real
- > Identify and discuss gray areas and "wobble room"
- > Connect academic integrity to our community, stress that it's not simply an individual matter: "It's not just about you..."

Reading through the suggestions, it struck me that students want to discuss academic integrity, and that they look to us to begin the conversation. Sounds like an opening to me!

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for the AIC