

Academic Integrity Task Force

Background

The Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) was last updated in 2013. Since that time, there has been a steady and dramatic increase in the volume of academic integrity cases. The chart below outlines the yearly increases of academic integrity cases that the Rutgers–New Brunswick (RU–NB) Office of Student Conduct (OSC) has adjudicated since the 2011-2012 academic year.

RU-NB-OSC Annual Academic Integrity Case Load

Academic Year	Total AI Cases
2011-2012	270
2012-2013	320
2013-2014	340
2014-2015	472
2015-2016	478

Since the 2011-2012 academic year, there has been a **77.04%** increase in academic integrity cases adjudicated by the RU-NB-OSC, an average of **16.08%** increase each academic year. As the campus caseload has steadily increased each academic year, it has become increasingly challenging to manage the case load with one full-time staff member who is solely responsible for all primary and peripheral administrative responsibilities. This issue continues to compound annually with each year bringing increasingly high caseload volumes.

Given the current annual referral trends for RU-NB-OSC, the caseload projections for the next five years will be as follows:

RUNB-OSC Annual Academic Integrity Caseload 5 Year Projections (16.08% Avg. Annual Increase)

Academic Year	Total AI Cases
2016-2017	554
2017-2018	643
2018-2019	746
2019-2020	865
2020-2021	1004

Currently, the average “case resolution time” (amount of days it takes to adjudicate a case from the time it referred to the office to when the case is closed) for an academic integrity case is **44.8 business days** (calculated from the data provided for the past 5 academic years) and this resolution time can be elongated during high volume periods (i.e., final exams/midterm exams).

RU-NB-OSC Average Academic Integrity Case Resolution Time (Days)

Academic Year	Avg. Case Resolution Time
2011-2012	37 Days
2012-2013	38 Days
2013-2014	30 Days
2014-2015	90 Days
2015-2016	29 Days

The high volume of cases managed by one RU-NB-OSC staff member not only delays the adjudication of cases (**Avg. of 44.8 business days to resolve a cases over the last 5 academic years**) for faculty and accused students, it inhibits RU-NB-OSC staff's ability to properly engage students who have been found guilty for violating the AIP.

OSC seeks to engage students in quality student development-based conversations on character, ethics, leadership, the importance of academic integrity as well as assisting them in developing strategies to prevent future violations. The negative impact of these delays are acute; students and faculty must patiently wait for cases to be reviewed before final assignment and/or course grades can be issued.

Charge

The Academic Integrity Task Force is charged with undertaking a review of the University's Academic Integrity Policy, particularly identifying any possible irregularities or gaps in terms of policy scope and content (for example, the misuse of new recording technologies, and so forth); and alert the appropriate University office in charge of policy and regulation (University Senate, Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, or Chancellor) to ensure upgrading the policy. The Task Force will also consider how the Academic Integrity Policy impacts the adjudication of cases of academic integrity with the purpose of improving case management efficiency. The Task Force will explore innovative improvements (compared, but not limited, to our Big 10 peers) to curtail the University's growing academic integrity caseload.

Timetable for completion

Task Force Report due April 2018

Task Force Members

Kevin Pitt	Co-Chair Director, Office of Student Conduct	kevin.pitt@echo.rutgers.edu
Ines Rauschenbach	Co-Chair Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences	inesrau@sebs.rutgers.edu
Melissa Backus	Associate Director, Office of Student Conduct	mbackus@echo.rutgers.edu

Lynne Borucki	Professor, School of Nursing, Rutgers-Camden	lborucki@camden.rutgers.edu
Sharron Crane	Teaching Instructor, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences	sharron.crane@rutgers.edu
Donald Dow	Assistant Director, Busch Campus Coordinator, English Writing Program, School of Arts and Sciences	donald.dow@rutgers.edu
Mary Flaherty	Assistant Dean of Students, Rutgers-Camden	marykreb@camden.rutgers.edu
Anu Gupta	Assistant Dean of International Academic Affairs, Rutgers China Office	angupta@echo.rutgers.edu
Michael Hewson	Senior Executive Director, Undergraduate Academic Affairs	ekimhews@echo.rutgers.edu
Justin Kalef	Associate Undergraduate Director and Director of Curriculum and Online Development, Department of Philosophy, School of Arts and Sciences	jkalef@philosophy.rutgers.edu
Farzana Katideen	Assistant Director for Community Standards and Student Development, Rutgers-Newark	farzanak@rutgers.edu;
Ramaydalis Keddis	Teaching Instructor, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences	ramaydalis.keddis@rutgers.edu
Robert M. Kurland	Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs, Rutgers Business School-Newark	rkurland@rutgers.edu
Bob Noland	Professor & Director of PhD Program, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy	rnoland@rutgers.edu
Julie Peters	Library Director, James B. Carey Library, School of Management and Labor Relations	jpeters@smlr.rutgers.edu
Ilene Rosen	Associate Dean for Student Services, School of Engineering	ilrosen@soe.rutgers.edu
Rob Scott	Associate Professor & Undergraduate Program Director, Department of Anthropology, School of Arts and Sciences	robertsc@rutgers.edu
A. Shadi Tahvildar-Zadeh	Associate Professor and Undergraduate Vice-Chair, Department of Mathematics, School of Arts and Sciences	shadi@math.rutgers.edu
Steve Weston	Assistant Dean for Student & Academic Services, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy	sdweston@rutgers.edu
James Whitney	Assistant Vice Chancellor, Undergraduate Academic Affairs	jhwiii@echo.rutgers.edu

Aparna Zama	Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences	zama@sebs.rutgers.edu
-------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------