

**Honor Board**  
**Report for Faculty Meeting**  
**March 9, 2020**

The Academic Honesty Policy of the College is overseen by an Honor Board consisting of faculty and students. For the 2019-20 academic year the Faculty members are Lucie Holmgreen (Psychology), Ronald Reitz (Math, Computer Science and Statistics), Jeff Jenson (Library), Mary Gaebler (Religion), Jess Stadick (Nursing), and Fuad Naeem (Religion). Student members are Owen Nkurunziza ('21), Lillie Ortloff ('22), Louis Gagnon ('20), Ehsanullah Nasiry ('21), Case Bartelings ('20), Amy Sanchez Seanez ('20), and Emily Lloyd ('20). Associate Provost and Dean, Valerie Banschbach, is the *ex officio* Provost's Office designee.

Academic Honesty Policy violations are submitted by faculty to the Provost's Office. In the 2019-20 academic year, eleven first-time violations of the Academic Honesty Policy have been reported, one second-time violation, one Honor Board hearing has been held (regarding a case from Spring 2019) and two additional hearings are scheduled for Spring 2020. The number of reports this year (Fall and January) falls toward the low end of the range of numbers of reported violations over the past five years (Table 1).

Table 1. Academic Honesty Policy Violations 2015 – 2020

<b>Term</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
<i>Fall</i>	11	32	10	14	12
<i>January</i>	2	0	3	0	0
<i>Spring</i>	8	20	10	17	<b>none yet</b>
<b>Total AY</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>--</b>

At the March 20 faculty meeting, current and past faculty members of the Honor Board will lead a discussion about the Academic Honesty Policy and Honor Code. We wish to receive some initial feedback from faculty regarding the state of Academic Honesty at Gustavus. Questions of interest include: What kind of academic honesty situations are faculty handling without reporting to the Provost's Office? What kinds of situations warrant reporting? What factors discourage reporting? What concerns do faculty have about the Academic Honesty Policy language and the Honor Code System? Are faculty satisfied that students are learning enough about academic honesty during their time at Gustavus?

We intend to follow-up on the March 20 group discussion results with an individual survey (to be distributed to all faculty) to determine if the Academic Honesty Policy and Honor Code may need some updates. Our student Honor Board members have likewise expressed interest in leading a student-focused conversation about the Academic Honesty Policy and student perceptions of it. Our goal will be to bring those conversations together to determine if changes should be proposed.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honor Board Faculty and Dean Valerie Banschbach

## **Honor Board**

### **Faculty-L Message for March 25**

Dear Faculty: During this rapid transition to online teaching, the Honor Board wanted to address some questions a few faculty have asked about the Academic Honesty Policy of the College. First and foremost, we realize that your students and you may be under a good deal of additional stress at this time so please be generous to yourself and students. Please also consider ways to make your own work in this regard more straightforward and readily achievable. We understand that you have many more pressing concerns at this time than the Honor Code so please take the following information under advisement and act as you see fitting to the circumstances.

If you have any concerns about academic honesty issues, please consider tailoring your methods of evaluating students to try to reduce the temptations for them to seek out unauthorized assistance. We encourage you not to create additional grading labor for yourself though. For example, same as during in-person courses, questions on exams or written assignments that focus on application of novel information from your course to new scenarios will be less tempting, regarding copying from the internet, than more generic questions or assignments, even if those questions are not lengthy, essay style questions.

The College has no plans to institute proctoring software or otherwise utilize invasive methods of preventing students from gaining unauthorized assistance. Therefore, if you are concerned about academic honesty issues, consider asking students to sign Honor Code pledges, on graded assignments. An example pledge:

*“As a student at Gustavus Adolphus College, I agree to uphold the honor code. This means that I will abide by the academic honesty policy, and abide by decisions of the joint student/faculty Honor Board.”*

Same as during in-person classes, you may wish to invite conversation with your students about what constitutes “honest” work for assignments.

Thank you for your all of the work you are doing!

-The Honor Board Faculty and Dean Valerie Banschbach