HOW ARE UNIVERSITY PENALTIES DECIDED FOR ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT CASES?

Every misconduct case will result in both a grade penalty from the professor and a university penalty decided by the Provost after recommendations from the college dean and the UOSA Honor Council, (plus the Academic Misconduct Board in cases that have a hearing).

Section 7 of the Academic Misconduct Code is the starting point for university penalties. Penalties include expulsion, suspension (with a transcript notation that is either permanent or limited in duration), community service in lieu of suspension, or censure (reprimand). In applying these provisions, the university has traditionally taken the following six factors into account, in approximately the order listed:

(1) apparent level of INTENT, including the possibility that the offense resulted from misunderstanding or momentary panic;

(2) AGGRAVATING FACTORS in the offense such as planning, involvement or implication of other students, or previous misconduct;

(3) importance of the ASSIGNMENT;

(4) student's CLASS STANDING, with an emphasis on years in college rather than hours earned;

(5) integrity of the STUDENT'S RESPONSE to the charge, ranging from implausible denial to a full admission where some question of guilt or involvement actually existed;

(6) MITIGATING FACTORS such as special stress at the time of the offense, undue burden created by the ordinary penalty, etc. These factors are secondary; i.e. the primary focus is on the nature of the offense and only then on other information about the character or situation of the student.

In the case of repeat offenses, two additional factors are considered: SERIOUSNESS of the first offense, measured largely by severity of the first penalty; and TIMING of the second offense -- whether it was committed after the first offense was fully adjudicated and penalized, or conversely was very close in time to the first offense.

The University may alter and adapt this approach over time in order to promote the goals of integrity and fairness.