UNIVERSITY OF OREGON   **STUDENT CONDUCT CODE ADJUSTMENTS**
                                            Summary of Requested Action

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The UO's Student Conduct Committee ("Committee") and the Office of the Dean of Students seek Board of Trustees approval for revisions to the Student Conduct Code ("Code"). Per the Code, *"Upon approval by the Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon, this Student Conduct Code becomes effective and supersedes all previous policies pertaining to student discipline at the University of Oregon."*

The Committee provides a peer perspective on matters of student conduct and academic integrity at the University of Oregon. The Committee of students, faculty, and staff serves a tripartite purpose for supporting the university conduct system through Advising, Advocating, and Advancing.

> **Advising**—Reviewing and making recommendations to the Code and related procedures.
> **Advocating**—Providing educational outreach to university students, faculty, and staff.
> **Advancing**—Exploring new and innovative ways to increase student and faculty awareness of and involvement in the student conduct program.

2022-2023 Student Conduct Committee Membership

Student Membership:
>   Katarina Finseth—Undergraduate Student
>   Sam Galyen—Undergraduate Student
>   Seth Jaksha—Law Student
>   Mikayla Johnson—Undergraduate Student

Faculty Membership:
>   Erik Girvan—Associate Professor, School of Law and CRES Faculty Director
>   Jana Prikyl—Multidisciplinary Science Program Director, Biology Adviser/Senior Instructor
>   Michael Tomcal—Senior Instructor I, Accounting

Staff Membership
>   Laurel Bastian—Faculty Consultant, Teaching Engagement Program
>   Kristi Patrickus—Attorney, Student Advocacy Program
>   Sandy Weintraub—Director, Oregon Law Commission
>   Hannah white—Coordinator, Holden Center for Leadership and Community

Administrative and Advisory Personnel
>   Sarah Barton—Student Conduct Coordinator, Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS)
>   Dianne Tanjuaquio—Associate Dean of Students, and Director of SCCS

The Committee met on the following dates to discuss, finalize, and approve proposed revisions to the Code to be presented to the Board of Trustees:
- April 17, 2023

- May 1, 2023
- May 22, 2023
- June 5, 2023

Recommendations

<u>"Unauthorized Collaboration" as a separate definition from "Cheating"</u>

This is a continuation of work done by the 2021-2022 Committee that was further reviewed by the 2022-2023 Committee.

"Unauthorized Collaboration" currently exists in the Code only as one form of Cheating, and the term itself is undefined. The 2021-2022 Committee determined that this term needed to be defined in order to provide clarity to students on University expectations, and that "unauthorized collaboration" should be included in the Code as a distinctive type of academic misconduct.

After extensive discussion between leadership from the Division of Student Life, Office of the Provost, and the Board of Trustees, this item was tabled so that the 2022-2023 Committee could review and make recommendations on amended draft policy language which resulted from that discussion. The 2022-2023 Committee made only minor revisions to that draft language, as described in the Notes below.

Proposed Definition:

> *Working with others in the submission of an assignment, exercise, or other academic requirement for assessment when not expressly permitted by the instructor.*
>
> *This section is not intended to prohibit the type of collaboration that promotes productive discourse and learning between students, such as engaging with lecture materials or course texts; discussing subject matter concepts, ideas, and themes; talking through problem-solving strategies and approaches; or study groups working to prepare for an exam. Unless expressly prohibited by the instructor, such collaboration is encouraged to the extent that students remain able to submit work for assessment which reflects their own individual interpretations, analysis, and conclusions. This level of collaboration will not constitute a violation of the Code, unless expressly prohibited by the instructor.*

Notes re: Proposed Definition
- The Committee determined that inclusion of the term "academic requirement" allows for review of work that may be associated with an academic program rather than a specific course (e.g., comprehensive exam, capstone project, etc.)
- The Committee determined that use of the term "for assessment" rather than "for grading" allows for review of work that may not be graded, but submission of that work nonetheless fulfills a course or other academic requirement.
- The proposed definition strongly emphasizes and further clarifies that certain types of collaboration are generally encouraged.
- This will not apply to work that is, by design, intended to result in a group submission on behalf of multiple students.

<u>Further Defining "Plagiarism"</u>

The Committee determined that the current definition of "Plagiarism" is so vague that it does little to assist students with understanding the University's expectations for behavior.

The Committee found that the broadness of the definition perpetuates the misperception common among students that plagiarism simply means copying and pasting work from somewhere else. The Committee determined that a proposed definition needed to acknowledge the realities of how plagiarism presents in the classroom, assist students with understanding nuanced applications of the policy that they may actually encounter, and provide faculty with a tool to help facilitate discussion about plagiarism with their students.

The Committee reviewed an inventory of policies from institutions nationally, identified elements that could augment the current definition of Plagiarism contained in the Code, and drafted the proposed policy language by adapting some of these elements.

Current Definition:

> *Presenting another's material as one's own, including using another's words, results, processes, or ideas, in whole or in part, without giving appropriate credit.*

Proposed Definition

> *Presenting another's material as one's own, including using another's words, results, processes, or ideas, in whole or in part, without giving appropriate credit. Plagiarism is contingent on the content of the submitted work product, regardless of whether the unattributed material was included intentionally or unintentionally. The use of material taken from any source—whether directly quoted, paraphrased, or otherwise adapted—must be attributed to that source.*
>
> *Plagiarism also includes the submission of material generated by others. This may include artificial intelligence (AI) content generators and generative AI tools such as ChatGPT; websites with a question-and-answer feature such as CourseHero, Chegg, and Bing; assistance from tutors or online language translators that results in unoriginal work; and work that is purchased or otherwise prepared by another individual.*

Notes re: Proposed Definition
- Students may engage in plagiarism unintentionally, and this is often indicative that improved organization and note-taking skills could be needed or that the student was in a rush and could not double-check their work. The proposed definition clarifies that students are responsible for the integrity of any work that they submit, even under these circumstances.

- The second paragraph of the proposed definition reflects some of the most significant trends in academic misconduct over the last five years. The use of question-and-answer features rose in prevalence during the remote instruction period of the COVID-19 pandemic, while the use of

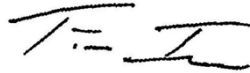ChatGPT and other AI has become the most common type of plagiarism reported since March 2023.

Proposed changes are provided in EXHIBIT A.

 Moved: _____Boyle_____   Seconded: _____Worden_____

VOTE: Voice Vote Recorded – Ayes carried (no dissention).

DATE: September 12, 2023

Recorded by the University Secretary: