

MEMORANDUM

TO: Department Chairs, Program Directors, and Graduate Program Directors

FROM: Philip Rous, Provost *PRous*

DATE: August 17, 2019

RE: Communication about Academic Integrity

Issues of student academic misconduct have been of concern at UMBC and nationally for some time. I believe we must explicitly and repeatedly address this issue so we retain our solid reputation of integrity among employers, graduate and professional schools, and the Maryland public. UMBC is viewed as an institution that values excellence and produces graduates prepared for success. Our efforts gain meaning if our students understand the value of academic integrity, respect the work of others, and adopt an ethical framework that guides their behavior.

The UMBC Faculty Senate adopted the attached statement on academic integrity in 2001. I am writing to remind you to call this to the attention of your full-time and part-time faculty. I strongly encourage you to urge your faculty to discuss the subject with their students as the new semester begins. You also may remind them that UMBC's Undergraduate Student Academic Conduct Policy is published at:

<https://www.umbc.edu/policies/pdfs/UMBC%20III%201.10.03%20Undergraduate%20Student%20Academic%20Conduct%20Policy.pdf>. For the Graduate School, the Policy and Procedures for Student Academic Misconduct is available at:

<https://catalog.umbc.edu/content.php?catoid=21&navoid=1251>.

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Student responses to the campus wide Academic Integrity surveys indicate that students were most likely to learn about policies and expectations related to appropriate academic conduct from faculty. Thus we have both an opportunity and a responsibility to help our students understand the complicated issue related to academic integrity. Included in this packet is a letter written by Bill Taylor to his students when he was a professor of Political Science at Oakton Community College in Illinois. The letter discusses roles and responsibilities of both students and faculty related to academic integrity. This letter was written many years ago and has been shared by Dr. Taylor online. He has given his permission for its use on other campuses. The letter may be distributed to faculty and can serve as a guideline for discussion. It is available online at:

<https://academicconduct.umbc.edu/files/2018/12/letterToMyStudents.pdf>

You may also want to alert your faculty to a brochure on plagiarism that was written and designed by students in Mitzi Mabe's English Composition class. It can be found at:

http://www.umbc.edu/undergrad_ed/honesty/. This link is meant to be shared and hard copies can be printed for distribution.

I hope to be able to raise the awareness among students and faculty about issues of academic integrity. Practically, this means informing the UMBC community of our shared values and the policies and practices related to appropriate academic conduct. The standards must be well known and easily accessible. Enforcement must be fair and consistent. In this way, we will provide moral direction by creating an environment intolerant of dishonesty and a culture oriented to learning and the development of integrity as a UMBC value.

Thank you for your help in creating a community dedicated to learning and ethical action.

cc: Faculty Senate
Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, President
Dr. Katharine Cole, Vice Provost and Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs
Dr. Patrice McDermott, Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs
Dr. Antonio Moreira, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs
Dr. Scott Casper, Dean, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Dr. William LaCourse, Dean, College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences
Dr. Dana Bradley, Dean, Erickson School
Dr. Keith Bowman, Dean, College of Engineering and Information Technology
Dr. Janet Rutledge, Dean, Graduate School
Dr. Christopher Steele, Vice Provost, Division of Professional Studies
Dr. Karl Steiner, Vice President, Research

Attachments: Statement of Values for Student Academic Integrity at UMBC
A Letter to my Students