

Report of the Committee on Academic Responsibility

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January 23, 2008

Committee on Academic Responsibility

- Four students, four faculty, three administrators
- Chancellor's charge: to respond to the draft report from the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor, and address four issues
 - Policies
 - Facilitation skills
 - Conflict resolution process
 - Extent of the problem

Policies

- Mission statement, BOT Policies, Academic Plan, Diversity Plan and Carolina traditions all encourage free inquiry and personal responsibility
- No speech code at Carolina
- Always possible to improve outreach, provide opportunities for interaction, and enhance classroom environment

Facilitation Skills

- Center for Teaching and Learning materials and workshops
- Difficult Dialogues Initiative
- New Center for Faculty Excellence

Conflict Resolution

- No single, well-publicized process
- Students typically take concerns to Department Chairs and/or Deans
- Informal resolution working with the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs
- Ombuds Office role?

Determining the Extent of the Problem: Survey Results

- 94% of students agree that instructors generally maintain an atmosphere that promotes intellectual freedom and welcomes diverse perspectives.
- 82% of students agree that TAs generally maintain an atmosphere that promotes intellectual freedom and welcomes diverse perspectives.

Survey Results (cont.)

- 88% of students agree that their classmates create an environment in which they feel safe being open and honest in expressing their opinions.
- 90% of students perceive the classroom environment to be open and welcoming to independent and provocative points of view.

Survey Results (cont.)

- 14% of respondents have experienced situations, or have witnessed situations, in which the classroom environment seemed unwelcoming to or hindered the expression of provocative or unpopular ideas.
- Political affiliation or identity is not a predictor of perceived bias.

Recommendations

- Efforts to promote understanding should continue (e.g., Campus Y programs, Carolina United, Race Relations Week)
- SACC and Student Affairs should review best practices and make annual report of incidents
- Continued support for Difficult Dialogues and Diversity Plan
- Publicize and possibly enhance conflict resolution processes
- There must be a shared effort and responsibility to ensure a welcoming environment