Proposition 08-06/07 (Amended 1/17/07)
Senate Memorial
Reforming the Procedures for Allegations of Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism

Sponsored by Senators Andersen (CAHE), Brown (A&S), Eastman (CAHE), and Creider (Library)

Whereas the current University Policy on the appeals process related to instances of academic misconduct and plagiarism (Section III.C.3.c of the Student Handbook) prevents the Dean of the College within which classes involved in cases of plagiarism are held from participating in the academic discipline of graduate students; and

Whereas the current University Policy on the disciplinary process related to instances of academic misconduct and plagiarism does not provide an opportunity for the faculty member involved in allegations of plagiarism and academic misconduct to actively participate, and speak and respond in each stage in the process;

Therefore, The Faculty Senate, through this resolution, hereby requests the Office of the Provost and Senior Academic Vice President to implement changes in the NMSU Policy Manual and Student Handbook that will effect the following changes to this process:

- The faculty member involved in the allegations of plagiarism and academic misconduct shall be invited to be present, to be informed, and to speak and respond at each formal stage in the process.

- If either party to a charge of academic misconduct (faculty or student) is present at any formal stage during the process, both parties shall be invited to that stage of the process.

- In cases of plagiarism and academic misconduct, the Dean of the College in which the course that is involved in the allegations of misconduct is offered shall have jurisdiction over graduate, as well as undergraduate cases of academic misconduct.

- In cases involving academic misconduct of graduate students, the Dean of the Graduate School will be kept informed by the Academic Dean with jurisdiction, copied on documents, and consulted in an advisory role.

- The outcomes of a given case shall apply only to that case, and specific rulings and outcomes shall not be interpreted as a change in University policy.
In cases where parties are not satisfied with the outcome of the normal appeals process, either the student or the faculty member may appeal the case directly to the Executive Vice-President and Provost.

Timelines should be established for each stage of the disciplinary process for academic misconduct (where none are currently in place), including the appeals process, and these timelines will be met to the fullest extent practical.

All parties to the relevant case shall be kept informed of what is occurring at each stage in the process, and this communication shall be via both email and hard copy correspondence.