

BC Faculty -

Many of you may have already prepared your syllabi for the fall semester. We expect that you will have discussions with students next week about classroom standards and expectations. We encourage you to be aware of the Title 5 criteria for grading and the California Community Colleges State Chancellor's Office, Legal Opinion 07-12.

- Title 5 requires that assigned grades are based on a "measurement of student performance in terms of the stated course objectives" and "demonstrated proficiency in subject matter."
- Plagiarism or cheating is misconduct which is appropriately addressed through the college student disciplinary process. Sanctions for violations of the Bakersfield College Code of Student Conduct include: warnings, censure, probation, restitution, temporary removal, suspension and expulsion. Legal Opinion 07-12 includes the following, "Plagiarism and cheating are serious allegations and, especially where a student is to be penalized for such conduct, he or she is probably entitled to some level of due process. At a minimum this should include the right to know the evidence on which the charges are based and the opportunity to present countervailing evidence or testimony. The student disciplinary process provides a mechanism for ensuring that these procedural requirements have been met."

A statement in our college catalog last year was not consistent with Title 5 and Legal Opinion 07-12 from the California Community Colleges State Chancellor's Office. The statement said, "An instructor who determines that a student has cheated or plagiarized has a range of many available options which may be as severe as giving the student a failing grade for the course." Instructors can assign a student a zero on a test or assignment if they suspect cheating or plagiarism. The student has the right to due process through the disciplinary process.

Reporting Academic Dishonesty - In addition to academic sanctions, faculty may also refer students for additional disciplinary sanctions by the Dean of Students, Joyce Coleman, pursuant the "*Student Conduct and Policy Procedures*". Following procedures in accordance with due process, disciplinary action taken by the Dean of Students may include, but is not limited to: warnings, censure, probation, restitution, temporary removal, suspension and expulsion. Nothing in this policy statement is intended to deny students who come within its scope of full access to due process, including the right to be informed of the charges against him or her, to be informed of the nature of the evidence supporting such charges, to have a meeting at which time statements and evidence in his or her own behalf may be submitted, and to appeal any decision resulting from such meeting through appropriate college channels.

For further information regarding the reporting process or due process you may contact Joyce Coleman at 395-4614 or [jcoleman@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:jcoleman@bakersfieldcollege.edu)

Academic dishonesty is a serious issue and clearly an academic matter and a student conduct matter. It will be a topic of discussion in the Academic Senate venue in the coming year.

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