

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY HONOR & INTEGRITY SYSTEM**  
**Annual Report 2019-2020**



Data Collected and Summarized on August 10, 2020

## **Summary**

Between August 1, 2019 and August 10, 2020, reporters (e.g., faculty, instructors, GTAs) submitted 349 Honor Pledge Violation Reports that involved 396 student reports (370 unique individuals). Of this total, 257 students did not contest the allegation and were found responsible; 101 students still have an open case; 15 student cases were dropped by the professor after an initial report; and 23 students contested alleged violations. Of the 23 who contested, 16 were found responsible and 7 not responsible.

The most frequently reported violations included: plagiarism (28%), unauthorized collaboration (28%) and unauthorized aid (29%). Of those found responsible, 63 students were sanctioned with the Development and Integrity course and 67 total students enrolled throughout the academic year.

## **Introduction**

The purpose of the Honor and Integrity System is to promote academic integrity as a standard expectation within the university community. The Honor and Integrity System pursues this mission through both education and adjudication. Article VI of the Honor and Integrity System Constitution requires the Director to provide an annual report to the Student Senate, Faculty Senate, and the Provost and Senior Vice President. This annual report summarizes the activities of the Honor and Integrity System for the 2019/2020 academic year as well as provides a report on the administrative activities of the Director, Honor and Integrity System staff, and volunteer Honor Council during the reporting period.

## **Cases Reported**

The Honor and Integrity System processed 349 total Honor Pledge Violation Reports (as of August 10, 2020). This figure reflects only the violations officially reported. It does not reflect informal consultation with reporters regarding alleged violations, nor Honor Code violations that faculty reporters choose to handle without recourse to the Honor and Integrity System. Kansas State University does not operate by a mandatory reporting policy for academic dishonesty. Rather, faculty are encouraged to report possible violations so that they and students alike can benefit from established due process and so that students with repeated violations are identified and properly sanctioned.

During the reporting period, 349 cases were processed, and 396 students were alleged to have committed Honor Code violations (Table 1). Frequently, reporters submit cases in which multiple violators are named. The number of cases processed is a function of many factors: faculty discernment and decision making, the number of students associated with a particular case, and fluctuation in the actual (unknown) number of violations. It is as difficult to estimate the number of Honor Code violations that go unreported as it is to know how many go undetected.

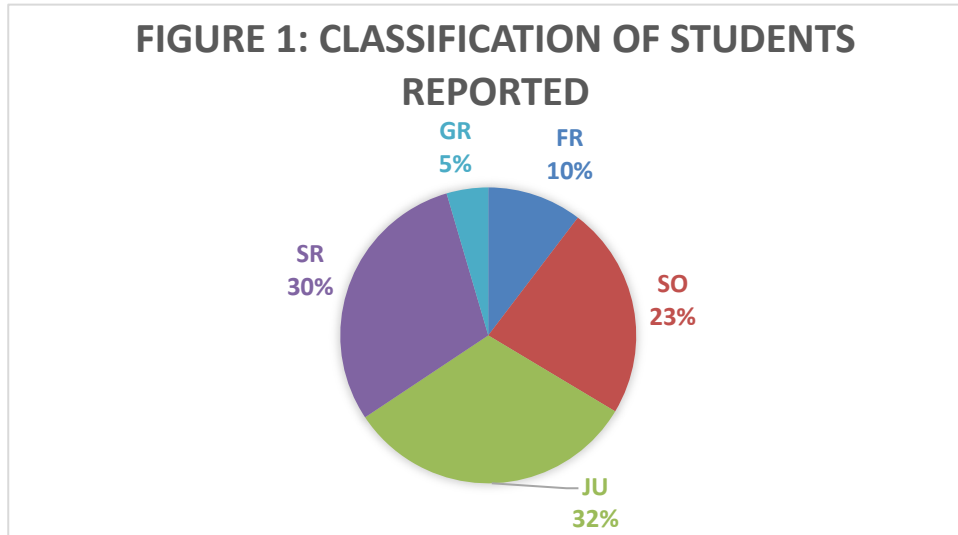
Academic Year	Cases	Students
99-00	25	33
00-01	55	91
01-02	63	103
02-03	79	104
03-04	91	232
04-05	127	162
05-06	127	170
06-07	116	150
07-08	100	127
08-09	109	123
09-10	134	181
10-11	154	188
11-12	132	166
12-13	207	265
13-14	197	285
14-15	157	190
15-16	297	343
16-17	150	187
17-18	173	230
18-19	162	195
19-20	349	396

Table 1. Number of cases and students reported per academic year.

Reporters who are the primary instructor for the course where the violation occurred have the authority to determine the appropriate sanction(s) for violating the Honor Code (Option 1 on Violation Report). Reporters determined the sanctions for over 98% of the students identified as alleged violators. However, reporters may also request that the Honor and Integrity System determine if the Honor Code has been violated and, if so, appropriate sanctions (Option 2). Approximately 68% of the reported students whose case is closed did not contest the violation report. Twenty-three students contested alleged violations. Of these, 16 were found responsible and seven not responsible.

## Reported Student Demographics

This year, reported students' demographics are a bit concerning with the highest percentage being juniors and seniors (Figure 1).



## College Demographics

Table 2 shows the reporters' colleges with the number of students reported from each college.

Agriculture	18
Architecture, Planning and Design	9
Arts and Sciences	215
Business Administration	10
Education	18
Engineering	106
Global	2
Health and Human Sciences	11
Polytechnic	7

Table 2: College classification for Reporters (number is number of students reported)

## Details about Violations

Similar to previous years, plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration were very common; however, this year unauthorized aid increased (Figure 2).

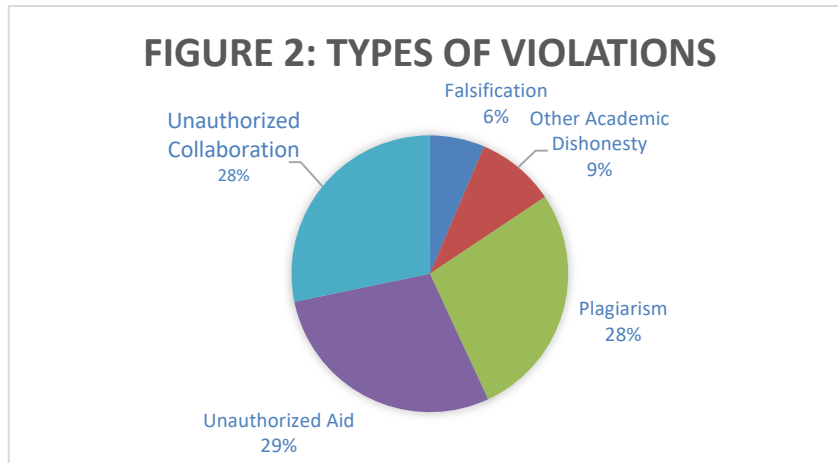
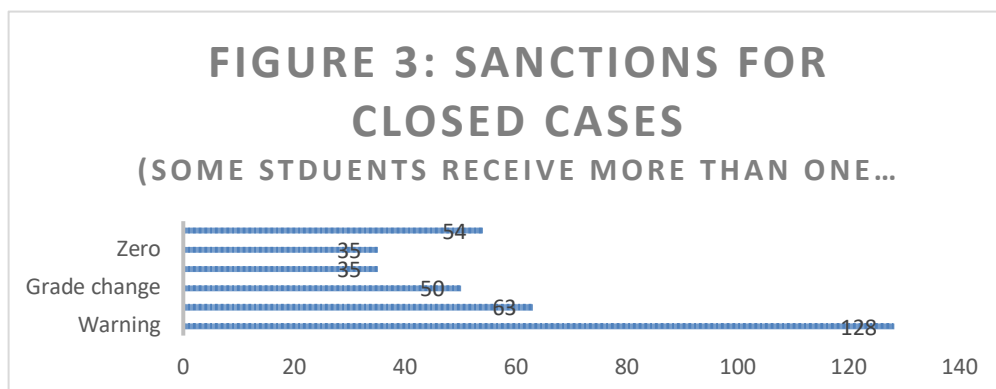


Figure 2. Breakdown on violation type. Plagiarism: Copying the work of others and presenting it as original. Unauthorized collaboration: Giving or receiving answers. Unauthorized Aid: Consulting unapproved resources. Falsification: Submitting work under false pretenses. Other: Any other academic dishonesty.

## Details about Sanctions

Sanction(s) issued by reporters ranged from an XF to a verbal warning (Figure 3). Multiple sanctions are commonplace (e.g., zero on assignment plus required enrollment in the Development and Integrity course).

Below is the breakdown of sanctions for students found responsible. This does not include pending cases nor the additional sanction for those who have been found responsible for violating the honor and integrity system more than once.



## **Multiple Violations**

Multiple violators are required to appear before a 5-member Honor Council panel called an Additional Sanctioning Hearing (ASH). During the 2019-2020 academic year, nine students violated the honor pledge more than one time during their tenure at K-State. These nine hearings resulted in two suspensions and one expulsion from the university. The other six hearings resulted in a combination of additional sanctions including permanent XFs, requirement to take the Development and integrity course and also no additional sanctions.

## **Educational Presentations**

From August 2019, through July 2020, Dr. Roberts conducted approximately 28 presentations that reached approximately 2,000 students and 300 faculty/staff. These presentations range from 10-15 minutes talks to multiple-hour, in-depth workshops. This outreach is critical to our mission to educate as well as adjudicate. Dr. Roberts also worked directly with several faculty through the keep teaching initiative to discuss academic integrity in online classes as we transitioned to online classes. We have created an online presentation for faculty to use this year (and future years online).

## **Development and Integrity Course**

During 2019-2020, we held two face-to-face sections and one online section during the fall semester. We were scheduled to have two face-to-face sections and one additional online section. We completed the first face-to-face section the week before spring break. The second face-to-face and the online course was scheduled to start the week following spring break. Therefore, we transitioned the face-to-face section to online and had two online sections during the second eight weeks. There was one section taught online during the May intercession.

In summary, during the 2019-2020 academic year, 23 students enrolled in the face-to-face course and 44 enrolled in the online course. Last year, 34 students enrolled in the face-to-face and 22 enrolled in the online course.

## **Professional Activities**

During the 2019-2020 academic year, Dr. Roberts completed her second year as the Vice President of the International Center of Academic Integrity and assumed the role of President in March 2020. She served as conference chair for the International Center of Academic Integrity Annual Conference held in spring 2020, which occurred just before spring break.

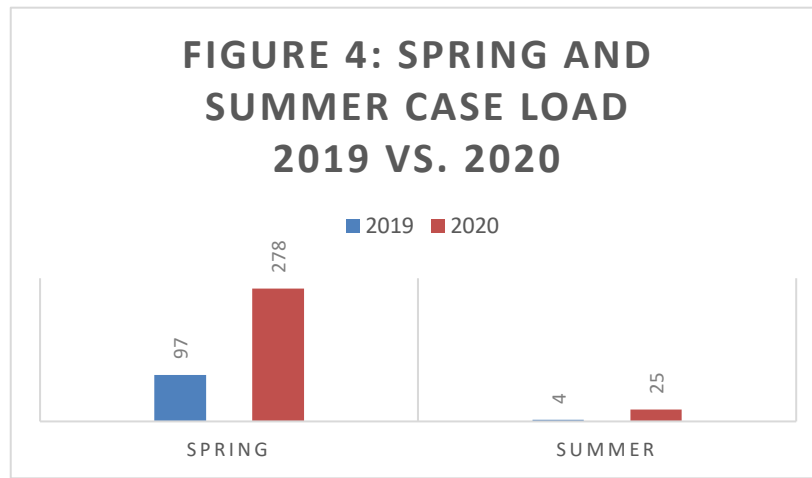
## **Office Administration**

During the 2019/2020 academic year, Dr. Roberts worked with a graduate teaching assistant for the fall semester. During the spring, the office was able to have a master's level practicum student who, in addition to her practicum requirements, taught the

Development and Integrity classes. We have been able to continue the collaboration with the Office of Student Life with student workers.

### Changes due to Covid-19

After spring break, all meetings with students and faculty and all hearings were held via Zoom. The spring and summer semesters saw a drastic increase of cases as seen in the graph below comparing the spring and summer sessions from 2019 and 2020. Also, important to note is 238 of the 278 cases in the spring semester were reported after spring break between March 23 and May 31.



We have seen a drastic increase of students turning to websites such as Chegg.com. K-State is not the only institution seeing this drastic increase. During the spring semester, Dr. Roberts contacted the Chegg honor code 25 different times to get access about who posted and who viewed 221 individual URLs. We also asked that the questions (many of which were written by K-State faculty) be taken down. Chegg complied with removing these questions and many students were held accountable through the system for an honor pledge violation for either posting the question, viewing the question, and/or submitting the answer provided on Chegg (sometimes incorrect or different way to work the problem).

Dr. Roberts worked with many faculty since spring break to adjust syllabus statements to reflect that students can be held accountable for viewing and posting on Chegg or similar sites.

Another major change was the policy approved by the Provost staff stating students who received an honor pledge violation (and were found responsible) during the spring 2020 semester would not be able to select the A/Pass/Fail option for the class in which they had the violation, provided their original sanction was anything greater than a warning. Therefore, if they received only a warning, they could still select the option, but if they received any grade sanction or had to take the Development and Integrity class, they would have to take their earned/sanctioned grade for the course. This only applied to the cases from spring 2020 semester.

Dr. Roberts and all Honor and Integrity System activities will remain virtual during the fall 2020 semester.

### **For Future Discussion**

During this academic year, the International Center for Academic Integrity will be releasing a new version of the historic McCabe survey which surveys students regarding their perception of academic integrity and cheating. I would like to explore options to have K-State students take this survey to better understand the academic integrity culture at the institution.