Dartmouth: 64 Students Cheated

By: Rob Wolfe Valley News 1/08/2015

D artmouth College has charged 64 students, many of them varsity athletes, with honor code violations following allegations of widespread cheating in a sports ethics class.

Department of Religion Chairman Randall Balmer, who in November accused some of his students of misrepresenting their class attendance, said that “with a few exceptions, most of the students were suspended for a term.”

The college’s head of judicial affairs, Leigh Remy, declined to comment, though spokeswoman Diana Lawrence confirmed the number of students facing possible sanctions.

Lawrence said that the college would not make detailed comments on the judicial proceedings until the appeals process ends in mid-January.

According to Balmer, in late October, students who failed to attend class passed off handheld devices known as “clickers” to classmates. Those students then used the gadgets to answer questions on the absent students’ behalf to make it appear as though they were present in class, Balmer said.

Though Balmer said that 43 students — less than the total number of students facing sanctions — handed off their clickers to their peers, some others confessed to him that they had helped their friends cheat.

The course in question was originally intended to help student-athletes, who sometimes had trouble with the coursework at Dartmouth, Balmer said. After a popular first run last year, the fall term’s class swelled to more than 280 students, and attendance and cheating became a problem.

Balmer left Columbia University to teach at Dartmouth in 2012. He also contributes regular essays to the Valley News’ Perspectives section...

Visit http://www.vnews.com/news/15127378-95/dartmouth-64-students-cheated for the complete article!

From the Director

Students have their say . . .

I just listened to a fabulous presentation from members of the Student Conduct Advisory Committee (SCAC) at the University of Texas Austin in which they outlined what they wanted and needed from their professors. It was geared toward “millennial” students but the points they made apply much more broadly.

The students said they wanted explicit directions that they could apply throughout a class—a clear set of rules that identified the line between collaboration and collusion, expectations regarding citation, and an and explanation of the standards to which they will be held, especially in cases where they vary significantly from those in other classes. They also were very clear that they wanted faculty to say more—not just delineating boundaries but also that (and why) they care about integrity and why it matters more broadly.

They closed their presentation by requesting that in the short term, professors say more about academic integrity on their syllabus and then make the syllabus a “living document” for the class so students will return to it again and again. Their final request was that for faculty to work with students to create a culture in which cheating will be seen as something “uncool, ugly, that no one will want to do.”

Thank you for articulating the students’ perspective so clearly, Panos, David, and Shannon. I couldn’t have said it better myself.

~Teddi Fishman

High Schools Switch Stance on Cheating

By: Kevin Forrestieri Mountain View Voice 12/23/2014

H igh school students who get caught cheating this year won’t be hit with the same heavy-handed consequences as in years past. A new policy at Mountain View High School is taking a progressive new approach to cheating, giving students a chance to redeem themselves and fix underlying academic issues.

Administrators at Mountain View and Los Altos high schools revised their cheating policies and restructured how they deal with plagiarizing students. The new system replaces the old rules that they say teachers had largely avoided anyway.

Under the new policy, cheating will be split into three categories based on the severity of the offense, and administrators will work directly with students on time management or any other problems that led them to cheat in the first place. Students will also have the opportunity to re-do their assignments for a new grade instead of getting a zero.

Dave Grissom, principal of Mountain View High School, said the school didn’t have much of a school-wide cheating policy -- teachers had their own personal rules for cheating in the classroom...

http://www.mv-voice.com/print/story/2014/12/19/high-schools-switch-stance-on-cheating
Ben Carson apologizes after plagiarism report

Potential Republican presidential hopeful Ben Carson is apologizing after being accused of plagiarism -- even as the author of one of the books Carson is accused of lifting material from is rushing to his defense. "I attempted to appropriately cite and acknowledge all sources in America the Beautiful, but inadvertently missed some. I apologize, and I am working with my editors to rectify the situation," Carson said in a statement.

BuzzFeed News broke the story earlier this week that Carson had lifted material from a number of books and online sources for his 2012 book "America the Beautiful." Among those sources is SocialismSucks.net, a site whose founder acknowledged to BuzzFeed that Carson had taken some of his comments. Other sources included "The Five Thousand Year Leap" by W. Cleon Skousen, a Liberty Institute press release, CBS News and author William Federer's book "America's God and Country."

Carson, a neurosurgeon who's said he'll make a decision on a 2016 bid by this spring, is the latest GOP presidential contender to be hit with plagiarism charges. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) faced similar accusations about his own book in 2013. The plagiarism charges have "blindsided" Carson, a source close to the neurosurgeon reportedly told the National Review Online...

http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/08/politics/carson-plagiarism-charges/

Book details UNC academic, athletic scandals

A new book offers a stinging critique of UNC-Chapel Hill's handling of the academic and athletic scandal that kept student athletes eligible to compete and persisted for nearly two decades. The book, titled "Cheated," is co-authored by a UNC-CH history professor, Jay Smith, and Mary Willingham, the whistleblower and learning specialist formerly employed at UNC. Published by Potomac Books of the University of Nebraska Press, it is available online and will soon be in stores.

Smith and Willingham give an insider's view of the reaction to the scandal and the failure to unearth the truth. It outlines racial history at UNC-CH that created an environment for benign neglect in the department of African and Afro-American Studies, where the academic fraud was centered.

More than 3,100 students, about half of them athletes, took bogus classes for 18 years from 1993 to 2011, according to a report last October from Kenneth Wainstein, a former federal prosecutor hired by the university to investigate...