Dean of Students - Ethics and Integrity - Background Information

The results of the student fee survey highlighted student desire for additional resources for learning support. Bolstering the educational resources for students around issues of academic integrity will aid students in preparing better research papers in the classroom as well as strategically create a culture of individual and community ethics and integrity on campus. The positive impact of creating such a culture will extend far beyond the reach of the specific projects mentioned below and will affect all areas of the UA student community. Specific descriptions of project goals are detailed below. This proposal has the support of the UA Academic Integrity Advisory Council, a group comprised of faculty and staff committed to a campus community of ethics and integrity. All projects involved in this proposal would be supported by the Council.

From 1999-2000 to 2006-2007, there has been a 348% increase in the total number of academic integrity cases (from 84 to 377). All academic integrity cases are reviewed and tracked by the Dean of Students Office.

Plagiarism has increased 733% between 1999-2000 and 2006-2007 (36 cases to an estimated 300). All of these cases are reviewed and tracked by the Dean of Students office.

Test modification is up 1500% from 1 in 2005-2006 to an estimated 16 in 2006-2007.

Since 7/20/06, 76,353 submissions have been made to Turnitin.com. 2492 papers matched with other sources 75-100% of the time. An acceptable level of outside sources would be between 40% and 60%. As educational sanctions for academic integrity violations increase, the Dean of Students Office expects the demand from students and faculty will increase dramatically.

To address this student trend we propose several projects including a Graduate Assistant for Integrity & Ethics, a Student Advisory Board and the creation of a campus wide honor pledge. These projects will reach all UA students – graduate and undergraduate – based on the broad based nature of the culture change these projects seek to achieve. There are currently no other departments providing these services, eliminating the possibility of overlap in service.

The Graduate Assistant for Integrity and Ethics will:

- serve as an open-door resource for students who have questions about academic integrity
- advise faculty and students on matters of academic integrity
- coordinate diversion workshop for plagiarism offenders and create additional workshop sanctions
- create educational resources to promote effective research and paper writing for students
- market the Code of Academic Integrity and its procedures to students and faculty
- advise Student Advisory Board for matters of academic integrity
- develop honor pledge for all new students to sign affirming their commitment to a community of integrity

The **Know the Code campaign** is designed to (1) educate students and faculty about the Code of Academic Integrity and its procedures; (2) promote a culture of ethics and integrity on campus; and (3) share the long term consequences of unethical decisions with students. A partnership with Career Services and Arizona Athletics, the Know the code campaign will feature faces of
high profile athletes and business people along with statements like: “I only hire people who do their own work” or “Winners don’t cut corners.” This campaign will be in print, online and will have podcasts with short interviews from the famous faces featured in the campaign.

A Student Advisory Board will be created to foster additional leadership opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. The Student Advisory Board will work with other student groups to create an honor pledge that all students affirm at the start of their UA career. Additionally, this student advisory board will help the Dean of Students Office advise students on matters of academic integrity, create multi-media educational tools for students and faculty and serve as Ethics Ambassadors for the community. This Student Advisory Board would work closely with the UA Academic Integrity Advisory Council. This group could make significant inroads for education in Tier 1 General Education classes, where a significant majority of Academic Integrity violations originate.

The Honor Pledge will be a statement of community that all students affirm at the start of their UA career. This pledge will be key to promoting and environment of ethics, integrity and individual responsibility. National research has shown that when combined with robust educational resources an Honor Pledge will help to reduce matters of academic integrity on campus.

The effectiveness of these projects can be readily assessed. While we expect the number of academic integrity violations to initially increase with greater awareness on the faculty side, the educational campaign is anticipated to reduce the number of student violations within a three year period.