

Jane lived on the same floor of her dormitory at X College with Mary during her freshman and sophomore years. At the end of her sophomore year Mary moved out of the dormitory. Jane remained, and now, in her senior year, is resident advisor. Based upon her acquaintance with Mary, Jane considers her a nice, kind, and caring person. In Jane's judgment other students who know Mary also view her the same way. Jane recalls that when they lived together in the dormitory, other residents looked upon Mary as someone to whom they could talk who would listen with interest and empathy. Jane recalls one situation where she and Mary stayed up all night with another female student who was undergoing an emotional crisis. Jane and Mary are friends, but not the closest of friends. Mary is a very close friend of several of Jane's closest friends, however - among them, the student with whom Mary and Jane once stayed up through the night.

Although Jane considers Mary a nice, kind, and caring individual, she (Jane) has nonetheless found Mary's approach to school work troubling. Jane has never seen Mary cheat on an in-class exam, but it seems to Jane that Mary places excessive reliance upon the help of other students on work outside of class. During the two years Jane lived on the same dormitory floor as Mary, she often observed Mary working with other students on homework problems or take-home exams, and obtaining assistance on her programming assignments and essay papers from friends of hers who were graduate students. In several instances Jane noticed that Mary received help on homework assignments for courses in which Jane was also enrolled. It appeared to Jane in these cases that the kind of assistance the other students provided Mary was so extensive it negated any educational value for her. Jane cannot recall, however, if the course instructors in these instances had made explicit statements to the class concerning acceptable and unacceptable kinds of assistance on homework.

Two years ago X College adopted an Academic Honor Code upon the joint recommendation of the Undergraduate Student Council and the Graduate Student Senate. The recommendation was motivated by the sense of the members of these student government bodies that something needed to be done about cheating on campus. In her capacity as Resident Advisor, several students this year have revealed to Jane confidentially, with anguish, conflict, and frustration, situations where they observed cheating in class. It seems clear to Jane that students at X College who don't cheat have become increasingly concerned that the College take effective steps to eliminate a situation which they regard as causing them to pay a high price for their honesty.

Last week Jane (unavoidably) observed a graduate student working on a statistics assignment with Mary in the Student Union Cafeteria. The graduate student appeared to show her how to do all of the problems on the problem set, step by step from the beginning to end. It seemed to Jane that Mary had expended almost no prior effort to solve the problems on her own.

The Academic Honor Code of X College contains the following among its provisions:

**Honor Agreement** (which must be signed by all students at X College)

Having read the X College Academic Honor Code I understand and accept my responsibility to uphold the Honor Code. In addition, I understand my options for reporting honor violations as detailed in the Code.

**Definition of Academic Misconduct:** Academic misconduct is any act that does or could improperly distort grades .... Such acts include but need not be limited to the following:

- Possessing, using or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of any essay, laboratory report, examination, or other assignment included in an academic course;
- Substitution for, or unauthorized collaboration with, a student in the commission of academic requirements;
- Submissions of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations, including authorship.

#### **Obligations of Students When They Suspect Honor Code Violations:**

In order for an honor code to function, students of X College must not tolerate violations of it by anyone. Students are at their discretion to use either of the following options to report suspected violations:

1. A student may simply confront the fellow student with the perceived infraction. It is expected that an alleged violator be taken before the Student Honor Committee if he or she persists in academic misconduct ( Note: The Student Honor Committee is the body established by the Honor Code to hear charges of academic misconduct and to determine sanctions in cases where it determines a student had violated the code.)
2. A student may choose to approach the professor of the class in which the alleged infraction occurred and seek his or her input on how to proceed.

Case from the Fifth Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, February 25, 1999.

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