Notes from CITR Workshop, Feb 15, 2010 about Cheating and Dishonesty

Rich Filipink, History and CAGAS, shared with us the CAGAS website for Academic Integrity (www.wiu.edu/ploicies/acintegrity). He highlighted the need for faculty to always report incidents so that patterns of dishonesty and cheating can be detected across time and courses. The reporting form is not meant to be burdensome, but to provide a track record of individual behavior so that if patterns arise, students can be referred for judicial discipline. Faculty always have the control over what is done in their particular class; the appeals process is to make sure that processes are fair and followed appropriately on both sides. The website has forms and definitions to help faculty be fair and consistent across campus, but each faculty member has to interpret the actual events in their own class. The appeal process is designed to uphold integrity standards. If hearings are improperly conducted, that is grounds for appeal, so procedures outlined on the Academic Integrity website should be followed.

Joe Dobson, Management, spoke about his experience doing focus groups about cheating with Ron Bauerly. He shared cheating methods like writing with black ink on black items, writing inside water bottles and labels, and on the bills of hats. He encouraged faculty to be very aware of student activity during tests.   He shared that students admit more cheating than faculty tend to realize happens.

We discussed plagiarism and dealing with cultural differences in students as a confounding factor in evaluating someone's dishonesty. We shared that there are various books in the Malpass collection about cheating which may enhance a faculty member's awareness of potentials for dishonest behavior and provide ideas for reducing the opportunity to cheat. We discussed putting warnings on syllabi about cheating outcomes and mentioning it out loud in the class introduction as well. We discussed the websites like turnitin and how to use them to detect plagiarism. Other ideas were to plug a suspicious sentence intro Google Scholar.