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To: Joel Bloom, Chair Undergraduate Council
From: Simon Bott, Chair, Academic Policies and Procedures Sub-Committee
Heidi Kennedy, Director of Academic Program Management
Re: "W grade" as a penalty for Academic Dishonesty

3.6.2008

During discussions concerning the "6 W policy," Council and all higher authorizations agreed that a W could not be applied as a penalty for Academic Dishonesty. The following paragraph is found on p. 38 of the current (online)* catalog:

"Students may not receive a **W** for courses in which they have been found guilty of a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy. If a **W** is received prior to a guilty finding, the student will become liable for the Academic Honesty penalty, including **F** grades."

This wording has not been included, however, in the section of the catalog on Academic Dishonesty (pp. 6 – 18). As a result, some departments have assigned a **W** as such a penalty.

We propose including the same language as on p. 38 in Section 4.01 on p. 11. This would then read,

4.01 Sanctions. The sanctions for confirmed breaches of this policy shall be commensurate with the nature of the offense and with the record of the student regarding any previous infractions. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, a lowered grade, failure on the examination or assignment in question, failure in the course, probation, suspension from the university, expulsion from the university, or a combination of these. Students may not receive a **W** for courses in which they have been found guilty of a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy. If a **W** is received prior to a guilty finding, the student will become liable for the Academic Honesty penalty, including **F** grades.

*Page numbers are taken from the "Print Preview" of the online catalog.
<http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/general/acade2.html#honesty>