

March 9, 2004

Dear Members of the Swarthmore College Community,

On Tuesday, February 24, the College Judiciary Committee met to consider a charge of academic misconduct brought against a student by a faculty member. The College Judiciary Committee was convened by Dean of the College Robert Gross and was comprised of Associate Professor of French Jean-Vincent Blanchard, Professor of Classics Rosaria Munson, Director of Computing and Communication Services Judy Downing, Maria Alvarez '04, and Ryan Budish '04. Associate Dean Tedd Goundie was the Observer to the hearing.

This case involved a student who submitted a paper for an optional open-book take home exam. The student gave attribution in the text of his paper when he used information from the textbook, but failed to identify as direct quotes passages that were taken verbatim from the textbook.

The CJC felt the student did not intend to deceive the instructor but that this was rather a case of the student being sloppy or treating the take home exam too informally. However, the CJC was clear that failure to indicate direct quotations from another source constitutes academic misconduct regardless of intent of the student or formality of the assignment, so the student was found guilty. As the sanction, the CJC recommended to the instructor that the optional take-home exam in which this transgression occurred should be voided, i.e., the exam should not help the student's grade nor should it count against the student's grade.

The sanction is non-notational.

Robert Gross, Dean of the College
Convener of the College Judiciary Committee

xc: The Phoenix