Academic Honesty Board

The Academic Honesty Board consists of faculty, undergraduate students, and graduate students who are available to serve on hearing panels to make findings on matters of Academic Honesty and Academic Grievances. These processes are crucial to upholding academic integrity at the University, and our honesty board members play a critical role in ensuring these matters are resolved fairly and in a timely way.

Members of the Academic Honesty Board are contacted as needed to hear cases of Academic Honesty and Academic Grievances. Typically, a hearing panel consists of three faculty board members, and two student board members, though a panel may be reduced to two faculty members and one student during the summer and winter sessions. One faculty member will serve as chair of the panel.

When serving on a hearing panel, honesty board members:
- Review materials submitted by the student and instructor before the hearing
- Ensure they are a “disinterested party” by contacting the honesty office if there’s any reason why it would be difficult to be neutral or impartial (e.g., if you know the student or instructor).
- During the hearing, listen to presentations from the student and instructor and ask clarifying questions to prepare for deliberation. Hearings last 1-2 hours.
- Deliberate with other panel members to make a formal finding based on the information presented.

General Hearing Procedures:
1. Introductions & Process Overview
2. Student and instructor have 10 or 30 minutes (depending on the type of hearing) to share their information and materials. The panel may ask questions through the hearing chair.
3. Student and Instructor may question each other through the hearing chair.
4. Panel engages in private, confidential deliberation and makes a formal finding on the case.

Interested in Joining?
- Faculty members contact Faculty Senate Secretary: secretary@umass.edu
- Undergraduate students contact SGA President: sgapresident@umass.edu
- Graduate students contact GSS President: gsspress@umass.edu

Feel free to reach out to honesty@umass.edu with any questions about the board!