Running head: ACADEMIC TABOO: SHE AND HER DISHONESTY BEHAVIOR 1

Academic taboo: She and Her Dishonesty Behavior

Christopher S Chow

George Mason University

ACADEMIC TABOO: SHE AND HER DISHONESTY BEHAVIOR 2

Abstract

Nowadays, we can perceive a lot of cases about students violate the principle of honest still happening on the campus. For the international students who don’t understand how important integrity is in the United States, they must learn relevant issue to responsible for themselves especially their study and attitude. In order to prevent more and more international students in violation of integrity, the goal of this article is discussing an international student’s context and her dishonesty behavior in George Mason University. I would like to provide some suggestions and solutions for facilitating a good climate of academic integrity in U.S. college.

*Keywords*: integrity, dishonesty, facilitating

ACADEMIC TABOO: SHE AND HER DISHONESTY BEHAVIOR 3

Introduction

Do you know why we must understand what is academic integrity and honor code? Before coming to the U.S for study, I didn’t know these things. Now, after I took this pathway program at George Mason University, I finally knew what are those things talking about. According to Jiang, Emmerton, and McKauge (2013) claimed that “Simon et al. (2004) described honor codes as ‘one of the most visible methods of promoting active student involvement in and responsibility for the maintenance of academic honesty’ (p. 78).” We can know that the school has the honor code, it can be an improvement on education. Otherwise, academic integrity is “the [moral code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral_code) or [ethical policy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics) of [academia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academia) which include the avoidance of [cheating](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheating) or [plagiarism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism) and maintenance of [academic standards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_standards).(Wikipedia)” The leading role in my assigned case is a pathway student in GMU whose name is called “Melisa.” She got John’s permission to enter his Mason account to see his PROV 504 assignment and she didn’t copy it. But Melisa didn’t get John’s permission to see another assignment: research paper for her major curse. According to Simpson (2016) informed that “Broadly defined, students are

ACADEMIC TABOO: SHE AND HER DISHONESTY BEHAVIOR 4

expected to produce academic work independently and must appropriately acknowledge any outside sources of information they mention in their work.” This is a dishonesty expression and she showed a bad behavior. Finally, she re-writes more than half of it and it was 30% match with John’s paper. In the last, she probably should face the penalty from the Office of Academic Integrity. We are going to discuss what result she might face and which area of honor code she was violated in that time.

About Melisa’s mistake

According to the information from GMU Honor Code, “Cheating encompasses the unauthorized use of, access to, or provision of academic work in an attempt to misrepresent a student’s actual efforts.”, “Plagiarism is defined as using another individual’s ideas or words without attribution or credit.” We can acknowledge that Melisa has violated cheating and plagiarism in Honor Code. She has taken a serious mistake in her life, and it could let her student career get a stain.

ACADEMIC TABOO: SHE AND HER DISHONESTY BEHAVIOR 5

Solve in a correct way

First, Melisa should complete the assignment by herself. Because complete every work by yourself is a permanent principle for everyone. We all should be responsible for own study especially the tuition is paid by parents. So, my suggestion is she can ask the idea from her classmates or seniors who willing to give her some idea or thought about the assignment. Maybe she can earn some ideas which she didn’t know or maybe not. Anyway, completing it without anyone’s help could be a good learning result. Finally, Melisa can go to learning services from GMU to ask for academic help. If she wants to ask some question or academic ideas about her major assignment which is related to international commerce and policy, she can make an appointment on Tutoring Resources there then there will be someone professional helps her solve the problem in her field.

Go to the Honor Committee

After the result of this case, Melisa might ask to attend the student committee in seven days. The committee will review the materials from Melisa and John then make a final decision for this case. After that, Melisa will know what her sanction is. In my view,

ACADEMIC TABOO: SHE AND HER DISHONESTY BEHAVIOR 6

I think that Melisa must get zero for the Assignment and Grade Reduction for the Course. She will also need to write written repentance until the school says stop. In brief, her mistake let her got a good experience in her life.

Conclusion

Personally, I truly understand why everyone all emphasizes how important the Honor Code is when I first came to the orientation of George Mason University in this January. Not just for avoid the situation we might face in the future; the basic responsibility is the duty of being a student especially I am even an international student. I should pay more effort to get the same level as local students. If I cannot manage my time well or I don’t study hard, I probably will make the same mistake as Melisa did. So, whenever I am doing my assignment, I don’t ask others’ help, I would instead do it by myself to avoid some mistakes. In other words, I like to challenge myself and earn a good learning result for my study. If I do it continually, I can be a good student at George Mason University.

ACADEMIC TABOO: SHE AND HER DISHONESTY BEHAVIOR 7

References

Simpson, D. (2016). Academic Dishonesty: An International Student Perspective. *Academic Perspectives in Higher Education, 2*(5).

Hai, J., Lynne, E. & Leigh, M. (2013). Academic integrity and plagiarism: a review of the influences and risk situations for health students. *Higher Education Research & Development, 32*(3), 369-380.

The Mason Honor Code. (2013). Retrieved October 13, 2017, from http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason- honor-code-2/