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To: First Year Students and Entering Transfer Students

From: Susan Art, Dean of Students in the College

This quarter, core humanities instructors are distributing copies of Charles Lipson's "Doing Honest Work" and discussing the importance of proper citation in writing. I write to expand the discussion of academic honesty to every area of academic inquiry, from writing papers to working on problem sets, exams, lab write-ups, etc. Academic integrity is essential to the work of the University and to learning.

Students bring to the College various interpretations of proper citation and acceptable collaboration, based upon diverse academic experiences. For students entering the College as beginning scholars, an understanding of the University's assumptions about academic integrity is an essential element in the transition to college. Our expectations may be different from those of your previous institution. As well, requirements may vary among courses, particularly with respect to acceptable levels of collaboration in group projects, science labs, and so on. Be mindful, therefore, that besides learning the proper use of sources -- as you will do in your writing classes this quarter -- you should seek clarification about the rules of collaboration in other kinds of academic work.

The University is dedicated to certain ethical principles associated with academic honesty. The College has sanctions and disciplinary procedures in place to handle infractions. Course instructors, your primary sources of advice, welcome questions if you are confused or in doubt about appropriate procedures for the conduct of your work. Advisers can also help you interpret your responsibilities as a member of an academic community. As we approach mid-quarter I urge you to re-read the "Statement on Academic Integrity" at the front of the "Information for Entering Students" and to talk with instructors and advisers to clarify your understanding of this statement.