From:	Lee, Joel
Sent:	Friday, June 20, 2008 3:53 PM
To:	Brothers, Sheila C
Subject:	Fwd: Follow up

Date: Wed, 18 Jun 2008 21:20:53 -0400
To: randallatuky.edu
From: "Joel M. Lee, Dr.P.H." <joelleeatuky.edu>
Subject: Follow up
Cc: ombudatuky.edu, demboatuky.edu

David, thanks for coming by today, I enjoyed our conversation.

In regard to Turnitin, as I transition out of the Academic Ombud role, I urge the Senate Council to revisit the issue of plagiarism prevention software through a fall semester demonstration period. As I noted in my report to the Senate, this is a problem that is of concern to many faculty and students. I have mixed feelings about recommending Turnitin as a preference to other similar products, however it does seem to be dominant in the marketplace, and is also compatible with our BlackBoard software. We can use the modestly priced one semester trial for as a tool for faculty and students to assess use of such a product, while simultaneously administratively considering all similar products for future use.

As a reminder the previous trial occurred when Jeff Dembo was Ombud was spring semester, 2002. I think that this was at a stage where many students and most faculty were less familiar with the Internet and cutting and pasting of text was not as common. (I am attaching an email from Jeff below. The legal issues Jeff referred to appear to have been resolved.) The current Turnitin Plagiarism Prevention website is http://turnitin.com/static/plagiarism.html. As I mentioned, while the Provost Subbaswamy is prepared to pay the $500 pilot fee, he believes use of such a product should be a faculty decision. I want to recommend a fall semester trial demonstration where faculty have the option to try the product on a voluntary basis. When we spoke, I did not mention that many departments including chemistry, and computer science are using software for plagiarism detection, and we run the risk of a variety of different departmental programs being purchased or developed. I regularly hear from faculty members manually entering student work into the Google search engine and investing hours in this process. I do want to recommend that a decision be made early enough that an announcement may be made as part of the Ombud Office fall emailing of "Important Academic Reminders to Faculty".   This would offer the opportunity to recommend appropriate syllabus language alerting students to the use of such a product and reiterating expectations.

When I asked Graduate School Dean Jeannine Blackwell about this, she replied, "We'll support you in whatever you choose. We'd like to be able to run electronic dissertations and master's theses through the software". Over the past two years I have also discussed this matter with Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Phil Kraemer, Assistant Provost for Integrated Academic Services Randolph Hollingsworth, and past Senate Council Chair Kaveh Tagavi,.

Michael Bruton the Turnitin Senior Account Manager assigned to UK responded to my question about our benchmark universities using Turnitin with the following information:
Michigan State University - Licenses with the Lyman Briggs School and James Madison College
North Carolina State University - No licenses

Ohio State University - Institutional 3-year license
Pennsylvania State University - Institutional license for Penn State *and* the entire Pennsylvania State University system
Purdue University - Institutional license for all campuses
Texas A&M University - Institutional license for main campus, Texarkana, Corpus Christi, Galveston and Qatar
University of Arizona - Institutional license
University of California - Los Angeles - Institutional license
University of Florida - Institutional license
University of Georgia - Departmental license
University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign - Multiple departmental licenses
University of Iowa - Institutional license
University of Maryland - College Park - License for the University College
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor - Several Individual licenses
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities - Institutional license
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill - School of Pharmacy at Chapel Hill
University of Virginia - English Department and College at Wise
University of Washington - Campus license for Tacoma campus
University of Wisconsin - Madison - Several Departmental licenses

As Jeff notes below "Every Ombud has witnessed the disappointment and anger felt by faculty who learn their students have plagiarized and are looking for ways to address the issue effectively."   Regrettably, this is a national problem that has been exacerbated by the ease in access to cutting and pasting of numerous Internet sites that we have failed to address at UK. I do believe that Turnitin offers an opportunity to educate and prevent plagiarism, rather than simply catching students. I hope the Senate Council will consider a one semester trial for the coming year. Please let me know if you have any questions.
joel

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From: Dembo, Jeffrey
Sent: Tue 2/6/2007 4:03 PM
To: Pedigo, Norman W; Kraemer, Philipp; Anderson, Heidi Milia; Yanarella, Ernest J; Beattie, Ruth
Cc: Cox, Penny; Day, Zed; Denomme, Mark; Friskney, Doyle; Tannenbaum, Robert S; Crofcheck, Czarena; Challman, Sandra D; Smith, Douglas C; Kuperstein, Janice ; Moore, Deborah; Williams, Gene; Lee, Joel; Eldred, Janet; Subbaswamy, Kumble
Subject: RE: antiplagarism software

Dear Tad and others:

Thanks so much for copying me on this (sorry if this turns into a long-ish answer). Plagiarism continues to be a problem at UK, at other institutions, in the scientific and technical literature, and in the private sector. When I was Ombud we used Turnitin.com as a trial during the Spring Semester of 2002. I believe the Writing Program did a survey at the end of that semester to quantify faculty and student reactions to the software. While I have a copy of the questions asked, I have been unable to locate the results from the survey (I am copying Janet Eldred with the hopes that she may have them). I am also copying our current Ombud, Joel Lee, because I know he is intensely interested in the topic.

Every Ombud has witnessed the disappointment and anger felt by faculty who learn their students have plagiarized and are looking for ways to address the issue effectively. It was my impression that, at least during

the period of time we tried Turnitin, there were very mixed reactions. Some faculty appeared to feel that it was an effective deterrent: they claimed that it might be possible for an essay to be handed in by two students in 2 different sections of a class. Thus, if the essay itself was not plagiarized from the Internet (and thus there would be no suspicion of plagiarism) the students still might be caught because the essays from both sections of the class would be found in the Turnitin database and would identify the similarities. Other faculty thought Turnitin was helpful in identifying "weak paraphrasing" so that a student could make the necessary adjustments before the essay was actually handed in. Other faculty felt disinclined for UK to continue using Turnitin: they felt that having "big brother" watching the students was not consistent with an effective teaching environment. There were controversies associated with Turnitin: an allegation that Turnitin was selling email addresses, worries that Turnitin was compiling a database of student-written essays that were ostensibly copyrighted to the student, and students who feel it is an infringement on their student rights. It is not a simply topic, and it may very well be time to have another discussion. However, we should not begin the discussion until we can accurately review what our brief experience was in 2002.

Some additional articles that address Turnitin:
http://chronicle.com/free/v48/i36/36a03701.htm
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/21/AR2006092101800.html
In the recent past our campus has done an excellent job of discussing the process and penalties for breaches of academic integrity, resulting in changes in the Senate Rules. We have not had campus-wide discussions about ways to change behaviors and that would include whether or not to use Turnitin. In my opinion it is an issue that goes beyond the Instructional Computing Committee because it involves campus-wide education policy and practice. Thus, the Provost's office should be at least indirectly involved (probably through the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education) and the Ombud office should be involved.

I know for a fact that faculty across campus feel very strongly about the issue of plagiarism. Perhaps Joel Lee and I could have a discussion with each other and then perhaps with the Provost or Associate Provost about constituting a group of faculty, students, and academic staff to discuss ways of encouraging academic integrity on campus. If anyone has additional thoughts, please share them with the group or with me.

Thanks,
Jeff