

Senate Council
July 11, 2008

turnitin.com

Comments from Academic Ombud Joel Lee:

1. We do know instances of plagiarism have increased nationally and in both undergraduate and graduate education at UK, however lacking good detection methods, we do not know how common this problem is in our classes;
2. Many faculty are frustrated with this matter and seek to address it through education and enforcement;
3. Some faculty invest a great deal of time manually entering phrases into Google to assess student papers, other are not;
4. Many of our benchmark universities use commercial products for prevention and detection;
5. Turnitin will offer UK a one-semester campuswide pilot license for assessment of their product;
6. Decisions on use of the product should rest with individual faculty; and
7. Faculty using the product should advise students of use in the course syllabus.

Such a product can and should be used to educate and prevent as well as detecting plagiarism.

Recommendation: that the Senate Council move that UK should purchase a campus-wide pilot site license for the use of Turnitin plagiarism prevention software for fall semester 2008. The software should be made available for appropriate optional use by faculty and students; if used by a faculty member, it should be noted in the course syllabus along with all other course and university policies addressing academic dishonesty. Based upon the fall 2008 pilot experience, continued use of Turnitin or another similar product should be assessed by an appropriate individual/body.