Rowan University

RESOLUTION-POLICY

X	Action Item
	For Information Only

From: Dr. Eric Milou, Rowan University Senate President

To: Dr. James Newell, Interim Associate Provost

Date: 5/8/12

RE: Senate Resolution *120507-3*

~~Turnitin.com~~ *Policy on Faculty Use of Plagiarism Detection Websites*

Rationale: Currently, university policy stipulates that instructors using anti-plagiarism software in their classes must allow students to the "right to refuse either to submit [their] work to Turnitin or have the university do so." The policy also states that if students decline to submit or have their work submitted to Turnitin, it will not "impact [their] success in the course."

To this date, there has not been a successful legal challenge to the required use of Turnitin. Allowing students to refuse to submit their papers gives students who use plagiarized materials a way to avoid detection. Additionally, Turnitin and other similar software help not only to detect plagiarism, but also to prevent it. For instance, Florida International University claims that their implementation of Turnitin has reduced the submission of unoriginal work by 82%. http://online.fiu.edu/faculty/tools/turnitin

Consequently, the Academic Policies and Procedures committee recommends that the requirement that faculty allow students to refuse to submit to Turnitin be removed.

The proposed revisions to the policy are in bold italics.

University Policy: ~~Rowan University has a license agreement with Turnitin, an online service that can be used to detect and prevent plagiarism in student assignments.~~ *Because of serious and continuing problems with academic dishonesty, faculty at Rowan have the option of utilizing plagiarism detection websites.* Student papers are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as they are educational records that may contain personally identifiable information. The following policy should be in effect to be compliant with FERPA.

The use of ~~Turnitin~~ *plagiarism detection websites* by faculty is entirely voluntary. If a faculty member chooses to use ~~Turnitin~~ *one or more plagiarism detection websites*:

University Senate
Campbell Library
201 Mullica Hill Road
Glassboro, NJ 08028-1701

856-256-4515
856-256-4924 fax

a. The faculty member must notify students on the official syllabus of the following:

1) the use and purpose of ~~Turnitin~~ *the plagiarism detection website(s).*
2) the rights of the student to not submit personally identifiable information to ~~Turnitin~~ *the plagiarism detection website(s)*. Students must be informed that this will have no impact on their success in the class.
~~3) the options that the faculty member and student have with respect to the students' right to privacy and the faculty member's right to evaluate student work for academic honesty.~~

~~c~~ b. If a faculty member ~~personally~~ submits student work to ~~Turnitin or other~~ *a plagiarism detection website*, the faculty member must remove all personally identifying information from the work. This includes the student's name, social security number, and/ or Rowan ID number.

~~d~~ c. If a faculty member receives information from ~~Turnitin or other~~ *a plagiarism detection website* that leads the faculty to judge that a student has plagiarized, the faculty member must follow the University policy for Academic Integrity.

d. Faculty may only use plagiarism detection websites that have been licensed or approved by the University.

e. Faculty may not give out any information about student work to a faculty member from any other institution than Rowan University. All requests from faculty at other institutions should be forwarded to the Provost's Office.

An instructor using ~~Turnitin should offer students either an opt-in or opt-out option. See below for recommended syllabus statements~~ *one or more plagiarism detection websites should offer a statement that specifies how that software will be employed in the course.* ~~Note: this~~ *The statements included below* should be modified according the ~~professor's~~ *faculty member's* specific use of ~~Turnitin in a class~~ *the anti-plagiarism service(s).*

~~Recommended statement for the syllabus with the opt-out option: Rowan University has a licensing agreement with Turnitin, an online service to help prevent student plagiarism. As part of this course I will be using Turnitin at my discretion to determine the originality of your work. If your work is submitted to Turnitin, it will be stored in the Turnitin database. You have the right to refuse either to submit your work to Turnitin or have the university do so; availing yourself of this right will not negatively impact your success in the course. If you do not wish to use Turnitin you must notify me by e-mail within two weeks of today's date. If you object to the use of Turnitin I will use other procedures to assess originality.~~

~~Recommended statement for the syllabus with the opt in option:~~ ~~Rowan University has a licensing agreement with Turnitin, an online service to help prevent student plagiarism. As part of this course I will be using Turnitin at my discretion to determine the originality of your work. If your work is submitted to Turnitin, it will be stored in the Turnitin database. You have the right to refuse either to submit your work to Turnitin or have the university do so; availing yourself of this right will not negatively impact your success in the course. If you object to the use of Turnitin I will use other procedures to assess originality.~~

Recommended statement for ~~the syllabus~~ *instructors who may use plagiarism detection website(s) to check individual student papers*: As part of this course I will be using *[name(s) of website(s)]* at my discretion to determine the originality of your work. If your work is submitted to ~~Turnitin~~ *[name of website(s)]*, it will be stored in ~~the Turnitin~~ *that service's/those services'* database*(s). Before I submit your work, I will remove all personally identifying information. This includes your name, social security number, and/ or Rowan ID number.*

Recommended statement for ~~the syllabus~~ *instructors who will require their students to submit their work to a plagiarism detection website:* As part of this course *you will be required to submit your work to [name of website]* to determine the originality of that work. If your work is submitted to ~~Turnitin~~ *[name of website],* it will be stored in ~~the Turnitin~~ *that service's* database. *You have the right to remove all personally identifying information, including your name, social security number, and/ or Rowan ID number. If you do so,* this will have no impact on their success in the class. *However, if you do not submit your work, I reserve the right to give you a lowered or failing grade for the assignment.*

Revision 1: 4/4/2012

Acceptance:

_____ I give my approval. I have forwarded this item to

_____ for implementation.

_____ No approval is actually needed. I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for informational purposes only:

_____

ADDITIONAL REVIEW NEEDED:

_____ I am willing to give approval if the following modification(s) are made:

_____ Before I can approve or reject this item, I need clarification on the following:

_____ I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for further consideration and consultation.

Rejection:

_____ I decline acceptance of this item for the following reason:

Please Return this Copy to the University Senate President ~ Retain a Copy for Your Records