

11-5-2010

Recommendation to Reinstate Turnitin

USM Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: http://aquila.usm.edu/faculty_senate_reports

Recommended Citation

USM Faculty Senate, "Recommendation to Reinstate Turnitin" (2010). *Faculty Senate Reports*. Paper 23.
http://aquila.usm.edu/faculty_senate_reports/23

This 2010/11 Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate Archive at The Aquila Digital Community. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Reports by an authorized administrator of The Aquila Digital Community. For more information, please contact Joshua.Cromwell@usm.edu.

RECOMMENDATION

November 5, 2010

Plagiarism Checking Software

Whereas –

The University of Southern Mississippi, General Education Curriculum Committee of Academic Council established writing standards for the undergraduate programs that requires a minimum of 2500 word essays, research papers, reaction papers, and other writing assignments.¹

Concern about the originality of the ideas, content and sources for essays and research papers is an issue in understanding and protecting against plagiarism on college campuses nationwide. While plagiarism is not a new problem, the ease of access to electronic resources as well as acquiring papers via the Internet is relatively new and complicates the detection of academic dishonesty.

Turnitin², an electronic plagiarism checking service, generates a detailed report of the degree of originality in the paper along with the text of the source material. In addition to providing a deterrent to plagiarism, it provides an opportunity to teach students the appropriate use of secondary sources. Turnitin³ is also an invaluable time saving tool for faculty in reading and grading essays.

We recommend:

That The University of Southern Mississippi support a plagiarism checking software such as Turnitin³ for the current and future needs of academic faculty. The committee recommends that alternative software be examined and evaluated which may be free open source software or less expensive to support.

¹ See *General Education Handbook*, GEC 01-05 and GEC 07.

² Online at <http://turnitin.com/static/results/he.html>

³ Online at http://www.lib.usm.edu/services/fs/instructional_services/turnitin.html