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## Recommendation to Reinstate Turnitin

USM Faculty Senate

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## 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.

Turnitin©<sup>2</sup>, 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. Turnitin© is also an invaluable time saving tool for faculty in reading and grading essays.<sup>3</sup>

We recommend:

That The University of Southern Mississippi support a plagiarism checking software such as Turnitin© 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.

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<sup>1</sup> See *General Education Handbook*, GEC 01-05 and GEC 07.

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

<sup>3</sup> Online at [http://www.lib.usm.edu/services/fs/instructional\\_services/turnitin.html](http://www.lib.usm.edu/services/fs/instructional_services/turnitin.html)