

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Educational Technology
Thursday, October 19, 2006
36 Gerberding Hall

Chair Kaminsky called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

Meeting Synopsis

1. Approve Agenda
2. Approve Minutes
3. Chair's Announcements
4. Annual Report
5. Open Announcements
6. Committee Discussion of the following topics:
 - a. Response Letter from Turnitin.com
 - b. Subcommittee for Recommendation Letter to Senate on Plagiarism
 - c. Search for New Vice-Chair
7. New Business

1. Agenda – Approved

2. May 15, 2006 Minutes – Approved

3. Chair's Announcements

- Chair Kaminsky welcomes new members
- Chair proposes vote for Ex-officio members to be included in the voting process – Approved
- Chair clarifies that Lane & Lewis will now be referred to as "Invited Guests"
- A list of acronyms will now be compiled and updated on each Agenda for reference
- Chair Kaminsky gives a brief overview of new challenges and topics facing the council, which included:
 - Disaster Handling/Management – How to teach and function as a University remotely
 - Plagiarism

4. Annual report

- Kanal gives a brief synopsis of the Annual Report that was sent last July to members, summarizing that the council's focus was primarily on plagiarism, and wireless coverage was placed on the back burner. Several discussions were lead throughout the year regarding the use of an anti-plagiarism company – Turnitin.com, including their offer of a 2-month free trial – and comments were remitted via email. A report for the faculty senate is being created to present this Fall, and Kanal states the need to make this a priority for the Council.

5. Open Announcements

- Lane states that the On-Tech News (October 2006) first-year Podcast report, covering a pilot project of in-class podcasting and feedback from students and faculty on its usage, may be of interest to the council. Lane states that while there was somewhat lower than expected response to the survey (380 students), the initial results indicate that students are accessing the Podcasts while concurrently referencing PowerPoint presentations, lecture notes or other materials, and that students also report that the Podcasts have no affect on their attendance. However, instructors reported lower attendance in Spring '06, but noted that those attending

class were more engaged, and thus the podcasting didn't appear to have any negative impact on class-time.

- Kaminsky raises the question of ownership of the materials, once they are posted online. Lane responds that there is a working Administrative Policy Statement (APS), currently under review, and going to ATAC, which may or may not come to FCET for review.
- Kaminsky announces that the *"Inventive Uses of Technology for Teaching and Learning"* workshop may also be of interest to council members, which takes place on Friday, October 20, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- Lane adds that there will also be a SPARK session, *"Innovative Learning Spaces"* on Thursday, October 19, 2006, and details about this session can be found on the Catalyst site.

8. Committee Discussions

a. Response Letter from Turnitin.com

- Kaminsky summarizes that at the end of last year's council meetings, there was an overall feeling that it would be unwise to have student papers in a company database, and that this could lead to great potential for lawsuits. Faculty and students also expressed concerns that their work would be accessible to others, and a decision was made that student papers should not be stored with Turnitin.com.
- The question is raised about the likelihood of Google (or similar search engine) as an alternative option. In response, Berger reports that he, along with Shawn Brixey, had tried several times to make contact with Google.com, Yahoo.com, and MS Research representatives, but received no or limited responses, leaving him unoptimistic about the interest of these companies.
 - In addition, Berger adds that search engines like Google.com also only search the first 25-50 words entered into the search box. Perhaps they might be able to configure a more suitable search, but this feature is currently not available, and therefore Turnitin.com may be the best and only commercial solution.
 - Conroy questions whether other companies might be available to consider. Berger responds that Turnitin.com is being primarily considered, because it is the most predominant and has the most references from other universities.
- Berger adds that perhaps Catalyst could store papers in a format compatible with Turnitin.com, and grant the company limited search rights, but still maintain the storage of papers at the UW. Kanal references the Turnitin.com letter, regarding their opt-out clause, including the removal of individual papers from their database.
 - Berger responds that perhaps it would be better to remove all UW data from Turnitin's database, and block them from using UW info to enhance their product. He instead proposes granting permissions to search requests from other universities, but maintaining ultimate control of the portal at UW, not Turnitin.
- Kanal suggests contacting Sharon Primm-Davot with the Trio Program at UW, to discuss their first-hand account of successes and problems with Turnitin. Kanal also notes that it isn't a question of whether it works, but rather a growing concern over the likelihood of lawsuits.
- Kaminsky states that a deterrent against plagiarism is important, as is a common commitment. Several members agree that it may be useful to try out the program, and perhaps create a UW system in the future, based on the results of the trial.
 - Lewis notes that Turnitin.com compares its searches to several databases, and that it may be difficult for UW system to have the same value and scope.

- Kaminsky states the need for the Faculty Senate Chair's approval before proceeding.
 - Lane questions if an outline regarding how to proceed with the pilot project is available from the Attorney General's Office. It is stated that Shawn Brixey was to follow-up on that last year. Kaminsky will contact him for an update.
 - Corbett suggests collaborating with the Academic Standards (FCAS) and Instructional Quality (FCIQ) councils, with the thought that multiple-council support for the project may make the Senate more likely to give its approval. Kanal responds that FCIQ was invited to prior meetings and presentations to discuss the topic and that the response was unenthusiastic, prompting FCET to move forward on its own.
 - Kaminsky summarizes that FCET supports the 60-day free-trial proposal from Turnitin.com, and that the council should work with other councils and C&C to determine the requirements and possibilities of building our own (UW) system.
- b. *Subcommittee for Recommendation Letter to Senate on Plagiarism*
 - Kaminsky reiterates the need to get a package/proposal to the Faculty Senate before the end of the year. This will require a group to draft a letter of recommendation to the Faculty Senate for Turnitin's 60-day trial.
 - Kaminsky requests that everyone participate, and that he will initiate a draft letter, circulating it for others to add to. Lane offers a write-up of campus efforts against plagiarism that she and Ward have been working on, along with comments following last year's Turnitin's presentation, as starting points.
- c. *Search for New Vice-Chair*
 - Kaminsky suggests, and the council agrees, to postpone the search for Vice Chair, due to member absences at this meeting. This topic will be revisited at the November 16, 2006 meeting.

7. New Business

- Lewis suggests a Catalyst presentation at a later date, on research tools available. Kaminsky agrees that people need advice on how to best use the tools available to them, and also feels that it would be good to address how best to put tools in people's hands. Several members agree and acknowledge that many resources are available, and that further discussion on how the UW can best support these current tools and also oversee the adaptation and implementation of new technologies would be useful.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m. *Minutes by Alyssa Robbins, Administrative Assistant, Computing & Communications.*

Present: *Faculty members:* Berger, Conroy, Kaminsky, Kanal
 Ex-officio members: Corbett
 Guests: Lane, Lewis

Absent: *Faculty members:* Leggott, Miller
 President's designee: Moy
 Ex-officio members: Ward

Approved 11/9/06 by FCET CHAIR Werner Kaminsky