Wayne State University Academic Senate
Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee
Proceedings from the Wednesday March 23, 2022, via Zoom

Present: Brian Edwards, Jane Fitzgibbon, Nasrin Nesha, Lisa O'Donnell, Mary Paquette-Abt, Michael Samson, Jeffrey Withey.

Absent: Faisal Almurfarrej, Paul Beavers, Elizabeth Drake, Melissa Crabtree, Paul Dubinsky, Erica Edwards, Daniel Golodner, Avraham Raz, Jennifer Stockdill.

Guest: Nathen Chavez

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 via ZOOM.

2. The Proceedings from February 26, 2021, were not completed in time for the meeting.

3. The committee held a minor discussion on the return to campus and what the facilities are like. It was noted that several have not been in our "home" buildings so, it is difficult to gauge the current condition.

4. Nathan Chavez to discuss Canvas and UniCheck

   UniCheck a cloud-based plagiarism detection software that finds similarities, citations and references in texts and is embedded in Canvas.

   To activate it, and instructor must first configure it. UniCheck must be associated with an assignment in Canvas. It is not a free-standing element but part of Canvas.

   Chavez explained how it allows an instructor to check a students work. If the systems are enabled when a student submit an assignment it will provide a 'plagiarism' score for the work.

   A demonstration of how to set up an assignment using the system followed.

   There are options that an instructor can chose.

   - Add submissions to Institutional Library
   - Exclude quotes
   - Exclude references
   - Exclude sources (for this an instructor must chose a value in terms of the number of words).

   If the work was plagiarized from another student at WSU, it will highlight where the work and sometimes what class the work was plagiarized from. But due to privacy concerns the students name is redacted.

   It checks via an algorithm for known internet sources and publications.

   A disadvantage is that it only checks for work submitted at WSU. If a student uses work from an associate at another school, it will not identify it as plagiarized.

For some classes it is useful for students to submit a draft, as the report will allow them to find citation errors and make corrections as needed…

The reports are provided via a link from Canvas. They will show which elements are 'plagiarized' in a color-coded format. Instructors have the ability to remove segments and recheck the document as they see fit.

See copy attached of a student report for reference. The student in question forgot to put quotation marks on the citations. *Example only shows pages 3-11, details of the student identity was removed. Overall match in the example was 2.77%.*

There are file size limitations, and the Canvas team has helped with the submission of some dissertations as files needed to be split.

It should be noted, if an organization or instructor submits on behalf of a student, that student will not be able to see the report.

Jeffrey Withey asked what the ideal number is? What should he be looking at in the report? Chavez advised that there is no magic number. It depends on the material and what was written. It might be high if there were a number of direct quotes, and it was a common area of study.

Nasrin Nesha brought up the issue with quizzes/tests. As an engineering student for some of the work there is only one way to answer the question. And that your score might be low, depending on the time you submitted the material. She asked how can we ensure that instructors are aware of this? No answer could be provided.

It was agreed that while necessary UniCheck is not failsafe. It was also noted that instructors are free to use anything else, such as Googling a phrase or one of the systems on the internet.

5. For the April Meeting it was agreed that we would approach Jon Fredericks to talk about parking.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Fitzgibbon