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Learning and Teaching Committee

Subject: Items Arising from Working Group to Review Practice and Guidance on Plagiarism Detection

Origin: Chris Dunbobbin, Secretary to Working Group

At its meeting on 23 January 2012, the Academic Standards and Procedures Sub-Committee decided that a Working Group should be convened to review practice and guidance on plagiarism detection across the University, with a view to making recommendations to ensure consistency of practice and the identification and dissemination of good practice. The impetus for this project arose in part from PPRs conduct in 2011, which identified differences in the practice of plagiarism detection, such as in the use of Turnitin plagiarism detection software, across Schools/Departments.

The Working Group was composed, as below.

Malcolm Barnard, Member of Academic staff from School of the Arts

Julie Bouazza-Marouf, School Administrator for EESE

Bryan Dawson , Teaching Centre

Emma Dresser, LSU Representative

Chris Dunbobbin (Secretary), PQ&TP, Registry

Ellie Harrison, Secretary to Academic Misconduct Committee

Rebecca Higginson, Member of Academic staff from School of AACME

Brian Jarvis (Chair), AD(T) for School of the Arts, English and Drama, and Chair of the Academic Misconduct Committee

Keith Pond, AD(T) for School of Business and Economics, and Chair of the Academic Misconduct Appeals Committee

Ruth Stubbings, Head of Academic Services, Library

The Working Group met on 4 May 2012, and the minutes of that meeting were received by L&TC on 14 June 2012. The Group agreed that further work should be done to draft an institutional code of practice on plagiarism detection, and proposed amendments to Regulation XVIII (Academic Misconduct). The results of this additional work are attached for L&TC’s comments and approval, as below:

1. ANNEX 1 – Draft Code of Practice on Plagiarism Detection.
2. ANNEX 2 - Proposed Amendments to Regulation XVIII (Academic Misconduct) – Cover Sheet.
3. ANNEX 3 - Proposed Amendments to Regulation XVIII (Academic Misconduct) - Tracked Changes version of the Regulation.

In relation to the draft Code of Practice, L&TC is asked to consider in particular the following (in bold text) in ANNEX 1:

* Additional central sessions on good referencing and plagiarism avoidance for UG and PGT international students, co-ordinated by the library.
* The use of Text-Matching software similarity index thresholds.
* Whether to specify a procedure for collusion cases.
* Whether to pursue a proposal to require students found guilty of a first offence of academic misconduct to undertake an online course on Plagiarism Awareness and pass an associated test (in conjunction with any other penalty imposed).

Author – Chris Dunbobbin

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