University of Washington
Faculty Council on Educational Technology
Monday, April 17, 2006
142 Gerberding Hall

Kanal, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Meeting Synopsis:
1. Today's meeting was a presentation on anti-plagiarism Website Turnitin.com. by Marc Goldberg (vendor's rep)

Turnitin.com anti-plagiarism Website
Berger stated that FCET has been looking at the plagiarism problem for over 2 years. Students can research the internet and can buy papers. They can also cut and paste other people's work into their own document. Berger introduced Marc Goldberg from Turnitin.com who gave a presentation of Turnitin.com services.

Marc Goldberg explained that Turnitin.com is a plagiarism prevention system. It is Web-based and does not require software. It helps to enhance teaching because it deters plagiarism before it happens. Student papers are submitted to the Website. Schools/universities pay for a 12-month license. Student names are protected and removed from the submissions. Papers are identified by numbers.

Berger stated that word substitutions can defeat any software and change a document. How does Turnitin.com handle this?

Goldberg stated that Turnitin.com will pick up other phrases. He gave us a quick demonstration as to how plagiarism can be detected from the Website.

Szatmary asked if Turnitin.com can pick up changes in sentence structure. Goldberg changed some wording in a document to test the site. Goldberg suggested that before you decide on this tool, members need to test the site and see what works and what Turnitin.com can do.

Brixey asked how Turnitin.com deals with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and intellectual property issues. Brixey discussed these issues with the AG's office who had some concerns. Brixey sent an e-mail with a Chronicle for Higher Education article dealing with legal issues that need to be addressed. Brixey also asked about the cost of this service. The start up cost is $800 with 8 cents per submission.

Goldberg stated that Turnitin.com does not hold the copyright for documents but protects submissions to the site. He also said that the implementation of Turnitin.com varies with each university and this is important. He views Turnitin.com as a tool for teaching. Turnitin.com provides services including digital submission, plagiarism prevention, peer review, and online grading. For more information, please refer to the packet of information distributed by Turnitin.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Minutes by Coralie Watters, Admin Assistant, UW Educational Outreach.

Present:
    Faculty members: Berger, Tweedie, Leggott, Kanal, Brixey and Kaminsky
    President's designee: Szatmary
    Ex officio members: Shaw, Ward, Lewis
    Guests: Marc Goldberg and others

Absent: Spielberg, Miller, Conroy, Gravlee, Campbell, Corbett, Mart and Morton.