

REPORT OF THE FS BUDGET & PLANNING COMMITTEE

April 12, 2017

The FS Budget & Planning Committee requests that funding for an Internet-based, plagiarism-prevention service be added to the planning lists. The FS Budget and Planning Committee made a similar request in Spring 2016. Spring 2017 is the third year that the institutional priorities lists have come through the Faculty Senate. An April 7, 2016, quote from Turnitin.com for a one-year license was \$12,865. In Spring 2016 there were Turnitin.com licenses at Hawaii CC, Kauai CC, Maui College, Windward CC, Hilo, and West Oahu. Because only the top five priorities from each division are considered in the development of the planning lists, the process is strongly skewed towards big ticket items; that is why some very worthwhile items like Turnitin.com fall through the cracks.

Plagiarism is a real problem with our students. Oftentimes students are not even aware they are plagiarizing. Surfing the Internet and copying and pasting is how they learned to write papers in high school. When an instructor is grading a lot of papers it is very difficult to find the time to investigate all the instances of suspected plagiarism. Using Google flags only a small fraction of the instances of plagiarism that are flagged using Turnitin.com. Students are missing out on valuable lessons because Leeward CC does not use an Internet-based, plagiarism-prevention service. An Internet-based, plagiarism-prevention service provides an excellent opportunity to discuss plagiarism and how to avoid plagiarism.

Students can submit their rough draft to Turnitin.com and get the feedback to make changes before it comes to the instructor (although the instructor is able to see students' original submissions). Turnitin.com highlights instances of plagiarism and the sources. For many students it is a real eye opener and a real learning experience. Requiring submission to Turnitin.com is in itself a powerful deterrent to plagiarism. If an instructor uses the same writing assignment in another class or another semester, Turnitin.com will flag whether a student is turning in a paper previously submitted by another student.

Faculty certainly need training in order to use Turnitin.com effectively and ethically. For example, a paper could show that 10% of it was plagiarized just because of the Works Cited list. Items in quotation marks are also flagged as plagiarized by Turnitin.com. Using Google can be more subjective than an instructor realizes when they investigate a student for plagiarism. Why is this student being checked and not others? Turnitin.com is much more even-handed because it assesses every paper submitted.

Budget and Planning Committee Motion—May—On behalf of the FS Budget & Planning Committee I would like to make a motion to add a one-year license for an Internet-based, plagiarism-prevention service, approximately \$12,865, to the planning lists.