

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
RULES COMMITTEE
concerning
**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STUDENT PLAGIARISM**

Presented at the
645th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
November 3, 2005

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

**Maurianne Adams
Marilyn Billings
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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STUDENT PLAGIARISM

One consequence of the rapid growth of the internet is that students can rapidly find information on nearly any topic and paste it directly into assignments for academic courses. Another consequence is that students can easily present for academic credit documents which they discover or purchase online. The issue of student plagiarism is further complicated by the growing number of students from other countries and cultures who enter our classrooms with conceptions of intellectual property rights and responsibilities significantly at variance with common practice in the United States.

In response to the recommendation of the Rules Committee, the Faculty Senate hereby establishes an AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STUDENT PLAGIARISM for a maximum duration of two years. Its charge shall be to make recommendations to the Faculty Senate with respect to:

- How the University of Massachusetts Amherst should conceptualize the issue of student plagiarism in the 21st century and communicate that concept to the academic community;
- How the University of Massachusetts Amherst should teach to the issue of student plagiarism;
- How the University of Massachusetts Amherst should support faculty in preventing student plagiarism;
- How the University of Massachusetts Amherst should protect the student's right to due process in student plagiarism cases while ensuring a maximum of effectiveness and efficiency of the process with a minimum of bureaucratic "red tape;"
- How the University of Massachusetts Amherst should improve any or all of its practices and procedures with respect to student plagiarism;
- The revision of the guide from the Ombuds Office, "What to Do If You Suspect ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, A GUIDE FOR FACULTY and INSTRUCTORS."

Its membership shall consist of:

- a) Three At-Large Faculty Members or Librarians (from different schools and colleges), selected by the Rules Committee;
- b) A Representative of the Graduate Council, selected by the Chair of the Graduate Council;
- c) A Representative of the Research Council, selected by the Chair of the Research Council;
- d) A Representative of the Academic Matters Council, selected by the Chair of the Academic Matters Council;
- e) A Representative of the Undergraduate Education Council, selected by the Chair of the Undergraduate Education Council;
- f) A Representative of the University Writing Committee, selected by the Chair of the University Writing Committee;
- g) A Representative of the Ad Hoc Committee on Online Learning, selected by the Chair of Ad Hoc Committee on Online Learning;
- h) The Secretary of the Faculty Senate or a designee;
- i) The University Ombudsperson;
- j) The Director of the Center for Teaching;
- k) The Director of Libraries or a designee;
- l) The Director of the Writing Program;
- m) The Faculty Advisor to the Provost;
- n) The Provost or a designee;
- o) One Graduate Student, selected by the Rules Committee; and
- p) One Undergraduate Student, selected by the Rules Committee.

The Ad Hoc Committee Chair shall be a faculty or librarian member elected from among its regular voting members.

It is expected that the Ad Hoc Committee will make recommendations to the Faculty Senate whenever appropriate. A progress report or final report is due not later than the Faculty Senate meeting of May 11, 2006. Subsequently, the Ad Hoc Committee should submit annual reports to the Faculty Senate.

**MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Student
05-06 Plagiarism, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-009.**