

Faculty Assembly Minutes
College of Arts, Sciences, and Education
Tuesday, October 29, 2019
2:00-3:30 pm
MMC: CBC #155
BBC: AC1 #317

The meeting began at 2:06 pm with a welcome and a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment that the Spring Assembly Minutes would be shared before the next Assembly.

Welcome and Introductions of New Faculty were shared with the Assembly.

The Chair gave the following report on behalf of the CASE Steering Committee:

- a. Faculty will be asked to self-select the following during the election process in Spring:
 - i. Role in College/School: In order for faculty to decide if they'd like to continue to vote chairs into representation, nominees will be asked to identify any administrative/leadership role they hold within the department/school/college.
 - ii. Campus Assignment: Since Faculty and Chairs determine campus assignment, faculty will be asked to identify primary campus assignment so that representation on committees complies with the CASE Constitution and By-laws.
- b. Requesting elections results: Moving forward, in future elections, any faculty member who requests the election results from the election committee will be provided with the results.

The following motion was discussed by the Assembly regarding Turnitin requirements for Doctoral D-5 forms (amended to include M-3 forms):

WHEREAS the D-5/M-3 form articulates institutional requirements for the Preliminary Approval of Dissertation and Request for Oral Defense; and

WHEREAS the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education has stated publicly and on multiple occasions that she will not sign D-5/M-3 forms without a TurnItIn Similarity Report; and

WHEREAS all requirements for doctoral/master study are approved through formal processes of shared governance; and

WHEREAS there has yet to be approval through formal processes of shared governance concerning the requirement of a TurnItIn Similarity Report in the D-5/M-3 process; and

WHEREAS the D-5 form does not require the inclusion of a TurnItIn Similarity Report; and

WHEREAS when signing the D-5/M-3 form, faculty attest that “My signature below affirms that I have read the dissertation and find it provisionally acceptable. In addition, I attest that the content is original work and the defense announcement is an accurate abstract of the dissertation,” thus providing assurances by qualified and approved faculty that the document is original;

BE IT ENACTED that the Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education, or any designee signing the D-5/M-3 form on behalf of the Dean, shall not withhold their signature due to a lack of a TurnItIn Similarity Report.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that until the formal processes of shared governance result in a policy outlining the use of the TurnItIn Similarity Report, the results of such reports shall not be used as a rationale to withhold the signature of the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education, or any designee of the Dean, on any D-5 form.

The following points, in relation to the motion, were discussed:

- There is no clarity **on how to use** the originality report and that is a concern for faculty.
- Plagiarism is a problem and there are other applications and tools (Authenticate) that can be used to address plagiarism. Additionally, there are academic misconduct issues associated with formal charges of plagiarism (there are no more informal charges).
- The use of Turnitin is not appropriate to what we teach our students and does not address the creation of original works that may use other modalities than writing.
- Can we use Turnitin in the interim until CASE faculty decides on another process? There should be absolute support of the current policy as suggested by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for CASE
 - It was moved: *We oppose the unilateral creation of academic policy. We stand with the graduate school and will work towards a solution.* This motion was seconded and eventually withdrawn.
 - We should not “kick the can down the road” and not have a policy in place. We should support the Associate Dean and the policy.
- Is this an issue of using this (TurnitIn) vs using nothing?
 - There is an issue of shared governance, hence the creation of the motion. If **faculty are supposed** to adhere to policies that affect the promotion of student work, they should be part of the process of creating **the policies.**
- Turnitin is NOT a solution to the problem as it stands. The current solution to the problem of plagiarism, while important, is based on a retroactive situation.
- Dean Heithaus: As we move deeper in the process of addressing concerns of plagiarism, no one is not going to sign the forms. He supports the removal of the language of Turnitin and suggests convening the Dean’s Advisory Council to create a faculty driven policy for the Assembly to vote on.
- Where do we (faculty) want to draw our line in the sand?

The question was called and the vote on the call was affirmative. The motion was approved as amended.

The following was moved, seconded and approved:

- *The Dean's Policy Advisory Committee will be convened and meet before the end of this semester. They will create a policy on the detection of plagiarism in dissertations and theses to be presented to faculty and voted on during the spring Assembly.*

The Dean gave his report.

- Introduced the Senior Associate Deans and the new Dean's office staff.
- He shared copies of the proposed 2025 CASE Strategic Plan. Faculty were asked to provide feedback on the plan.
- Asked for feedback on the "1-pager" for updates from the office.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.