INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: DR. DIANE ALLEN, PROVOST

FROM: LEARNING WITH TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

SUBJECT: TURNITIN.COM PLAGIARISM SERVICE

DATE: MARCH 7, 2012

CC: JEROME WALDRON

It is the recommendation of the Faculty Senate's Learning with Technology Committee and the Academic Policies Committee, that Salisbury University **actively pursues the purchase of TurnItIn Plagiarism Service** for all faculty members for the AY 2012-2013 and abandons the use of SafeAssign.

Salisbury University converted from Turnitin to SafeAssign for the Fall 2009 semester. Since then, faculty who have used the SafeAssign service have found that it is inferior to Turnitin. Primarily, Turnitin has the following functionality that is not available in SafeAssign:

- Ability to exclude quotations within the paper from the originality report.

- Ability to exclude the bibliography within the paper from the originality report.

- The ability to initiate a discussion across instructors and institutions for paper that received a high amount of similar content.

- The ability to obtain utilization reports by instructor, department, or school and the percentage of originality reports within various ranges of unoriginal work.

- Larger network of publisher content and library databases for comparison – including leading content publishers, library databases, text-book publishers, digital reference collections, subscription-based publications, homework helper sites and books.

  Note: SafeAssign works with the ProQuest ABI/Inform database with over 1,100 publication titles and about 2.6 million articles from '90s to present time, updated weekly (exclusive access).

In addition, the Academic Policies Committee reported that the originality reports are clearer to read and print from Turnitin than SafeAssign. This is extremely important during the appeals process.

At the end of the Fall 2011 semester, SafeAssign's central service was heavily overloaded. Faculty had to wait up to a week to receive the originality reports from student's final papers, which led to frustration and difficulty in preparing grades for the end of the semester. While the committees recognize that this was not a normal occurrence, conversations with Blackboard has led

to little faith that they are allocating enough time and product development into their SafeAssign product.

Therefore, we are recommending the purchase of the Institutional License with integration into MyClasses for **$20,920**. This cost is based on the headcount of 8300 students. This license would then have to be renewed on a yearly basis.

If purchased, Instructional Design & Delivery would assume the responsibility of administering and providing faculty support for TurnItIn at Salisbury University. We would assist in the transition from SafeAssign to Turnitin for faculty. The SafeAssign option would then be removed from MyClasses.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Thomas on behalf of the Learning with Technology Committee
Lori DeWitt, chair, Learning with Technology Committee.
Batya Hyman, chair, Academic Policies Committee