

STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic Policy Committee (APC)

Minutes of Academic Policy Committee

Wednesday, December 29, 2023

12:10pm – 1:38pm Online via TEAMS meeting

The attending committee members : Sarah Benes; Owen Biesel; Maria Diamantis (co-chair); Rex Gilliland; John Nwangwu; Sebastian Perumbilly; Melanie Uribe (Co-chair); Jia Yu, Gregory Adams.
Invited guests: Colleen Bielitz, Rebecca Hedreen, Amy Jensen, Trever Brolliar, Bod Zamfir

The committee was called to order by Co-Chair Melanie at 12:15 pm.

The following Agenda items were discussed –

Impact of AI on Academic Misconduct –

- Dr. Bielitz reported there is no 100% reliable detection method to detect use of AI in student's work.
- It is simply a prediction with some % of accuracy but it is not reliable .
- The cited resources need to be checked by faculty for validity
- Seek students' further elaboration on their assignments following a report
- BlackBoard 9 does not have an up to date plagiarism platform

Further discussion occurred with other guests sharing personal research and information, such as:

- The students who get flagged the most are those who need the tools to improve their language and speaking
- Faculty should check if the students are using the tools to learn or to finish an assignment quickly without much reflection
- Many tools have been used for years by our students
- Detection algorithms are constantly changing/updated
- There is no way of avoiding AI use by students, therefore finding ways to either adopt assignments or ask students to provide further details or ask for increase of language variability (which ChatGPT can't do)

After the lengthy discussion of AI, the committee deliberated on what should our next steps be. A list of items:

- concerns from faculty of AI use;
- suspicions of its use on assignments;
- plagiarism and BB9 software updates;
- equity for all students;
- faculty's right to academic freedom;
- syllabus statement with some recommendations.

The committee decided to follow up with the last item: a set of minimum recommendation to be part of the syllabus if the faculty chooses to do so.

The committee members were charged by Melanie to consider the winter break as the time to reflect on their AI information gathered from IT, Buley Library, Faculty Development workshops; and make recommendations for the crafting of a FS Statement when we return in January. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 31 (we will not meet on January 17 in order to work independently on above assignment).

Meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Diamantis, APC co-chair