

MEMORANDUM

To: Barbara H. Eccles, Secretary of Senate
From: Prof. Michael Dohan - Chair, Senate Academic Information Technologies Committee (SAITC)
Senate Meeting Date: May 15, 2017
Subject: SAITC Outstanding Issues Report

Executive Summary

At the May 1, 2017 meeting of the Senate Academic Information Technologies Committee (SAITC), outstanding items to be reported to the new Senate Teaching and Learning Committee were discussed.

Two issues were identified. First, the management of the results of the Technology Use Survey needs to be discussed by the new Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (STLC) with regards to archiving the report and dataset, or performing any further analysis. Second, the STLC needs to decide whether to pursue the issue of adopting anti-plagiarism software. These issues are discussed in detail below.

Issue 1: Technology Use Survey Results

From summer 2015 to December 2016, an ad-hoc committee of the SAITC designed, implemented, and reported the results of a survey, intended to assess the in-class technology needs of all Lakehead University instructors. This survey was based off of the Technology User Survey and its purpose was to “help ...make recommendations to Senate for the planning, development, and operation of digital technology systems and services for Lakehead University”. The final results were reported to the Senate in December 2016, and the ad-hoc committee has been dissolved, as its purpose was successfully fulfilled.

The results, final report, and complete dataset will be forwarded on to the STLC administrators. The STLC should decide how these results should be archived, and if any more analysis should take place.

Issue 2: Anti-Plagiarism Software

The issue of adopting anti-plagiarism software has been discussed by the SAITC over the last year following a call for participation in a provincial project initiated by the Council of Universities (COU). The project is a collaborative effort between the COU, interested Universities, and Ontario College Council of Chief Information Officers (OCCCIO) and is

being led by the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM) to help sectors benefit from a possible consortium pricing model for anti-plagiarism applications.

The STLC should decide if adoption of anti-plagiarism software is an important issue to pursue, and the proper approach for this.