Committee’s narrative:

The Special Academic Programs committee began discussing the issues related to student cheating and academic misconduct. We suspect that many faculty are not aware of the problem and the committee will explore ways that term papers can be structured that challenge students to provide their own synthesis, or analysis, and make it virtually impossible to download text from the internet. We suspect that for years students have been allowed, even encouraged by previous teachers, to download information from the internet. They need to learn the differences between plagiarism and the proper use of, and credit for such information. The Special Academic Programs committee will continue to work with Student Judicial Affairs on developing processes to cope with increasing problems of cheating and plagiarism during the 2007-2008
academic year. Plagiarism is one of those forms of cheating that is highly amendable to pedagogical solutions. A special case in the area of plagiarizing is the “plagiarizing” by a student of the student’s own work. Sometimes a student is writing two papers for two classes in the same quarter, and the two papers can overlap in materials and sources. One idea discussed the Special Academic Programs discussed with the Jeanne Wilson from Student Judicial Affairs was to pass out folders with helpful literature to the new faculty at the New Faculty Orientation on the options and resources that are available to them when they are involved in these types of situations with students. Student Judicial Affairs would also like to send the information on what resources are available out on the Academic Senate listserv so that the entire Senate membership would have the information accessible to them when they are involved in case of academic misconduct.

Respectfully submitted,

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