

## Senate I&R Committee Annual Report

2006-2007 REVISED (5/22/07)

During the 2006-2007 academic year, the I&R Committee met 8 times. The following is a list of the issues addressed and actions taken by the Committee during this academic year.

1. Presented recommended **revision to the Academic Misconduct Policy** to the Senate for review and action, a motion that evolved from a discussion of creating a WF/WP grade to address student status/grade upon withdrawing. The motion that was sent forward added item #4 to the current policy; the statement reads: "Failing to demonstrate academic integrity by not upholding the individual's basic share of responsibility for collaborative course work and/or assignments." The addition to this policy was forwarded from the Senate to the college administration and **approved** by the President.
2. Presented a statement to be added to the college catalog regarding **textual similarity detection software**. Statement was approved by the Senate and **approved** by the President. The statement reads: "Faculty may require students to use textual similarity detection software (e.g. Turnitin.com) in courses at Buffalo State College. Textual similarity detection software compares submitted student text to a database of millions of previously published documents, including those on the public Internet, a proprietary collection of published articles, as well as every student paper previously submitted to the detection service. When similarities between student text and an existing document are found, the software identifies those similarities for instructor and/or student review. (Similarity alone is not evidence of academic misconduct, as such material may be correctly cited.) This software may be used as an educational tool to assist students in learning how to properly cite resources, decrease instances of academic misconduct, and/or to assist in the identification of acts of academic misconduct." It was also motioned and approved by the Senate and President that the Instruction and Research committee recommends this statement's inclusion in the Faculty/Librarian Handbook, wherein faculty should be advised to include it in syllabi of all courses using textual similarity detection software.
3. **Academic calendars through spring 2010** were presented to the Senate. All were recommended by the Senate to the administration and **approved** by the President.
4. Conducted **online survey** of college faculty to assess sentiments regarding Thanksgiving Break and CEP week. The data gathered (from 108 respondents) will be used by the

2007-08 Instruction & Research Committee for the development of future academic calendars.

5. **Sent back to I&R** committee was a motion designed to align a policy and practice on campus regarding non-attendance. The proposed modification to the existing **non-attendance policy** read as follows (italicized portion was the new portion of the policy) “Nonattendance at the first class meeting does not withdraw a student from a class; *however, faculty may choose to administratively drop those students who do not attend the first class or notify faculty of their absence (preferably in advance of the absence).* This will be reviewed by I&R during the 2007-08 year to see what impact, if any BANNER has on the non-attendance issue and to see if other reasons can be identified and addressed related to non-attendance.
  
6. **I&R was charged by the Senate in March 2007 to review the goals of IF in relation to BSC 301.** The committee began their investigation of this matter with a special meeting of the committee, past committee/Senate chairs involved in the creation of IF, and current committee chairs and the Provost. An online discussion forum was established to allow the entire campus community to have feedback. Given the timing and magnitude of this charge, an **I&R special summer select ad hoc committee**, chaired by Senator Mike, will be established to review IF/BSC 301 during summer 2007 and bring back a recommendation to the Senate no later than the October 2007 meeting.
  
7. **Sent back to I&R committee** was a motion, which had been brought to I&R from the Senators of the School of Natural and Social Sciences, to **eliminate the upper-division requirement for graduation.** A larger discussion about course numbering and rigor appears to be needed before this issue is reconsidered.
  
8. A minimally **revised charge for I&R was approved** after amending the charge to have the items listed in the charge marked with bullets rather than letters to ensure all items received equal attention.
  
9. I&R received a proposal from SCIFOC to eliminate the **Technology & Society** requirement from IF. The committee felt that eliminating the requirement was premature and instead has requested, through Academic Council, an **exemption of this requirement for those students admitted into IF from Fall 2006 through Summer 2008.** In addition, I&R has requested that SCIFOC present campus workshops on the learning objectives of Tech & Society and provide guidance on course proposal writing for this designation. I&R has also requested SCIFOC revisit the learning objectives related to this designation to see if there is a way to rewrite/reduce them in order to

increase course proposals without impacting the integrity or spirit of the course offerings. **Academic Council reviewed this request in May 2007 and denied it,** preferring to deal with hardships that may arise related to this issue when the students are closer to graduation.

10. Entertained a proposal by the Service-Learning Office to include a Service-Learning designation for such courses which would allow students to identify these courses during registration and to have them noted on their transcripts. The I&R Committee supports this initiative and will bring it forward as a motion in Fall 2007 when the finalized proposal is presented to them by the Service-Learning Office.
  
11. A proposal from the Writing Oversight Committee to alter the Writing Across the Curriculum requirement was brought to the committee in April 2007. It was tabled for more information until Fall 2007.
  
12. Discussion regarding emergency campus closures was tabled until 2007-08 to allow the administration to complete its summer investigation of the matter; Discussion was also tabled regarding distance learning until 2007-08 with the recommendation of forming an I&R ad hoc committee on technology to address the issue.
  
13. Brought in Doug Koritz, Assistant Dean for Intellectual Foundations, for multiple updates on Intellectual Foundations, including BSC 101, to the Senate to update campus community on progress of this new initiative and its adherence to the approved Senate recommendation regarding IF.