

POLICY ON TEXT-MATCHING SOFTWARE

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| Approved: Senate Board of Governors | December 1, 2004 (Minute 13) December 13, 2004 (Minute 7) |
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Full legislative history appears at the end of this Policy.

The Use of Text-matching Software at McGill

McGill is committed to promoting the highest levels of academic integrity, which is fundamental to achieving our mission of the advancement of learning. In promoting academic integrity, McGill strives to provide information about the meaning of integrity, about how to foster it, and about the consequences of breaching it.

Because plagiarism is a serious attack on academic integrity, universities are increasingly taking steps to deal with it. Any solution must include providing students with information about proper citation and about how to avoid plagiarism (see "Student Guide to Avoid Plagiarism" at www.mcgill.ca/integrity/studentguide/) as well as providing instructors with suggestions about how to prevent plagiarism, such as designing assignments that are difficult to plagiarize (see "Strategies to Reduce Cheating and Plagiarism" at www.mcgill.ca/integrity/strategies/).

[...]

In light of the foregoing, Senate, on December 1, 2004 (D04-32) and the Board of Governors on December 13, 2004 (GD04-29 "Appendix D") approved that:

- a) McGill University should obtain an institutional license for the use of text-matching software that meets the approval of the CSA. In selecting the software, McGill University shall assure itself that the intellectual property rights of users are protected.
- (b) The Policy and Procedures for Use of Text-matching Software as a Means of Investigating Suspected Plagiarism shall be followed at McGill (D04-33).
- (c) The Policy and Procedures for the Use of Text-matching Software in Courses shall be followed at McGill (D04-34).
- (d) The University shall not oblige instructors to ask their students to submit written work to text-matching software.
- (e) Instructors who require the use of text-matching software in their courses shall follow the Policy and Procedures for the Use of Text-matching Software in Courses.

[...]

- (h) McGill University will review the use of text-matching software two years after the start of the contract.

The Use of Text-Matching Software as A Means Of Investigating Suspected Plagiarism

[...]

Policy

[...]

When the University has reasonable cause to suspect that a student has represented the work of another person as his or her own, the University may take any reasonable means to verify the originality of the work. Information from text-matching software can be used as admissible evidence, either to initiate or corroborate an investigation or a charge of plagiarism under Section 15 of the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

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Senate
Board of Governors

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