UHD Faculty Senate Resolution

Regarding: Online Integrity

March 22nd, 2016

1. Whereas the threat of systematic plagiarism in online courses threatens to undermine academic integrity, and the deterrence of this threat requires consistent commitment across all disciplines; be it resolved that the Faculty Senate urges the Academic Policy Committee to amend PS 03.A.37, Online Education Policy, to include a new section similar to the example below:

   Programs, and/or departments, will define standards and best practices appropriate to their discipline(s) for delivery of assignments and assessments that are designed to deter plagiarism. These standards may include but are not limited to face-to-face testing; remotely proctored testing; creative and individualized form assessments such as portfolios, essays, and term projects; plagiarism checkers; and other technological strategies for plagiarism deterrence.

2. Whereas the threat of systematic plagiarism in online courses threatens to undermine academic integrity, there exists fee-based online vendors who will take entire courses for students (and appear to be operating with impunity), and current institutional policies and standards are inadequate to deter these threats; be it resolved that the Faculty Senate urges the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost to do the following:

   - Identify and implement student authentication strategies, which are more effective than the current password and user id,
   - Provide additional resources for programs and/or departments to use face-to-face testing if they choose to do so, and
   - Provide resources for investment in other technologies that programs and/or departments may choose to use to deter online plagiarism.