

**Application for Access to a Record  
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP)  
Subsection 6(1)**

TO: Ms. Karen Crombie  
Dalhousie FOIPOP Coordinator  
Room 3, Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building  
Studley Campus, 6299 South Street  
Halifax, N.S. B3H 4H6

1. This is an application pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for access to:

Check one

- (a) applicant's own personal information; or  
 (b) other information; or  
 (c) both applicant's own personal information and other information.

2. I am applying for access to the following record:

*(Below, identify the material applied for precisely by including such particulars as the specific event or action to which it refers, the date of the record or the date or period to which it relates, the type of record (document, report, letter et cetera), names of department personnel who prepared or may have knowledge of the information, or citations to newspapers or publications which are known to have referred to the record.)*

Information regarding TurnItIn.com, including the following items:

- a) A full copy of the contract and/or terms of usage agreement between Dalhousie University and iParadigms, LLC. This may be an annual contract renewed near July each year, or there may be only one signed on or about July 9, 2002.
- b) All statistical information available to the administrator of Dalhousie's TurnItIn.com service. Some of these statistics have been published online, e.g. [http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic\\_computing/acs-2002-q4.html](http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic_computing/acs-2002-q4.html) and [http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic\\_computing/acs-2003-q4.html](http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic_computing/acs-2003-q4.html). The information available should include, but not be limited to, the items on the following list. Alternatively, the information needed to calculate that exact statistic could be provided. The list is as follows:
  - i. The number of papers submitted each semester since the fall semester of 2002.
  - ii. For each semester since the fall semester of 2002, the number of students who have submitted at least one paper
  - iii. For the years 2003, 2004, 2005, the number of unique students who have submitted a paper in that year
  - iv. For each of the semesters since the fall semester of 2002, how many instructors<sup>1</sup> have used the service

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this request, "Instructor" is defined to be any professor, graduate student, outside employee, part-time or sessional instructor, teaching assistant, or any person who grades student work.

- v. For the years 2003, 2004, 2005, the total number of unique instructors who have submitted papers in that year
  - vi. The number of instructors who used the service in 2002, but not in 2003-2005.
  - vii. The number of instructors who used the service in 2003, but not in 2004-2005.
  - viii. The number of instructors who used the service in 2004, but not in 2005.
  - ix. Information not included above but published by other institutions, e.g. any of the reports linked from <http://www.mu.jisc.ac.uk/servicedata/plagdetecction/data/index.html>
  - x. Any and all aggregate statistics regarding the 'originality score' assigned to papers submitted by Dalhousie students, including the number in each of the five colour-coded ranges defined by TurnItIn.com, the median score, etc.
  - xi. The number of requests to view student papers Dalhousie instructors have received from within the university, and from other institutions. For each, include the number of times a Dalhousie instructors chose to release the paper.
  - xii. The number of times Dalhousie instructors have sent requests to view papers from other institutions, and the number of times they were successful.
- c) Any service-level guarantees provided by iParadigms, LLC or any of its services, such as those published online here: <http://www.mu.jisc.ac.uk/slas/plagdetecction/plagiarismdetectionsld2003-04.html>
  - d) Any written reports documenting the assessment process followed when choosing to subscribe to TurnItIn.com prior to July 9, 2002, as well as the results of that assessment process. Similarly, the contents of any reports or results of assessments or reviews conducted once subscribed to TurnItIn.com, any time in the period after July 9, 2002.
  - e) The minutes and/or notes of the TurnItIn.com "Working Group" as described online at [http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic\\_computing/acs-2002-q4.html](http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic_computing/acs-2002-q4.html) and the "Working Committee" as described online at [http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic\\_computing/acs-2002-q3.html](http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic_computing/acs-2002-q3.html). The membership of this "working committee" was ACS staff, Fran Nowakowski, Gwen MacNairn, Ron Hoffman, and members of SCITPC.
  - f) All of the written responses sent to the "handful of vocal students" who found TurnItIn.com "controversial" during the adoption phase (as referenced at [http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic\\_computing/acs-2002-q4.html](http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic_computing/acs-2002-q4.html) ).
  - g) The written responses sent by ACS personnel to students who have inquired about TurnItIn.com since December of 2002.
  - h) Faculty queries to ACS, and the ACS responses, regarding TurnItIn.com, as stored by the UCIS ticket system "Footprints", under the project "TurnItIn.com". The existence of this system is documented at [http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/admin\\_computing/adcs\\_q3\\_2002\\_report.html](http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/admin_computing/adcs_q3_2002_report.html) ("Created 4 new ticket systems (TurnItIn.com... ") and

[http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic\\_computing/acs-2002-q3.html](http://ucis.dal.ca/news/reports/academic_computing/acs-2002-q3.html) (“A ticket system was set up in UCIS Footprints service to receive requests from faculty.”)

- i) Any and all written correspondence to and from the office of the Vice-President (Academic and Provost), including those to the Associate Vice-President (Academic), regarding TurnItIn.com, including communications with iParadigms, LLC or its employees, ACS staff, students, faculty, media, or other concerned parties.

### **Request to Waive Fees**

I hereby request to be excused from paying fees related to the above application because:

(a) I cannot afford to pay fees; or

(b) (specify any other reason)

- i. I cannot afford to pay fees, as I am a student here;
- ii. by my count, I have already paid Dalhousie \$39,952 in tuition during my time here; allowing me to view information about the grading process without extra cost seems reasonable;
- iii. the administrator has said he already has the answers to most of my questions (Appendix A) and it is merely a matter of sending them to me;
- iv. when refusing my original request through normal channels, Lawrence Maloney said this was only a step to make the release of this information consistent (Appendix B), and it is unreasonable to charge me for something done only to make things more convenient for him;
- v. the university spokesperson had no problem sharing this information with me without fee (Appendix C); Larry Maloney, who was not even sure he was the right authority to decide (Appendix B), is the only person who wants me to file this request;
- vi. this information is clearly in the public interest; the recent articles in the student newspaper, the notable increase in readership of the site where I publish TurnItIn.com news, and the recent comments from the Dalhousie Student Union are indicative of students wanting to know more about TurnItIn.com.

### **Additional Notes**

E-mail address:     msmit@dal.ca    

Where the requested information is already in electronic format, to save time and printing costs for all concerned, I will happily receive the information in electronic format. It can be sent to the address above, or written to some type of portable electronic media.